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INSIDE THE TABLOID

WORK+ Heroic women of cyberspace Games Wars: fight to the death Apple's latest trauma

PLUS: pages of IT appointments



THE TABLOID

Rostropovich: a celebration



THE TABLOID Can a New Man survive in the City?

# The portrait of a poor teacher

ers? The profile of the few thousand failing teachers. whose existence has inspired angry debate, is revealed today in an internal official memorandum leaked to The Independent.

The bad teacher is experienced, not a new recruit, teaches a smaller class then her more competent colleagues; and is more likely to be found teaching nine-year-olds than five-year-olds, according to the memorandum sent to inspectors. He or she is also more like**EXCLUSIVE** 

ly to have trouble keeping orquality of new recruits. Gillian der than to lack knowledge about the subject being taught. The memorandum circulated Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, has cited an Ofsted study to support the within Ofsted, the standards Government's stance that there watchdog, offers the first official is no evidence that reducing

picture of the profile and districlass sizes raises standards. bution of bad primary teachers. But class size campaigners Critics said yesterday that it said the memo suggested that cast doubt on government poliit was impossible to draw firm cies on both class size and imconclusions about class sizes proving teachers by a blitz on when a disproportionate numteacher training to boost the ber of small classes were being

by Judith Judd

taught by poor teachers. Christine Asambar, Ofsted's head of the research and analysis, says in the memo: "Generally, poor teachers] teach smaller classes than their more effective peers - possibly because headteachers are amious to place them in the

best circumstances to support

their effectiveness." Her findings also throw into question ministers' belief that the root cause of bad teaching lies in trendy teacher training courses which are failing to equip teachers for the jobs.

announced a new national curriculum for primary teacher training. She used an Ofsted report on reading in inner London boroughs - which said that newly trained teachers were unhappy with their training - to back her decision.

The Ofsted memo says that the failings of poor teachers tend to be in their inability to keep order and to organise lessons rather than in their lack of subject knowledge, though the latter may contribute to their failings.

Reception class children and those at the top of primary schools have the best teachers. according to the analysis - just 7 per cent of their teachers are poor. Those in year five (nine and ten-year-olds) fare worst: a quarter of their teachers give consistently poor or unsatisfactory lessons. For eight-year-

olds the figure is one-fifth. Mrs Agambar says in the analysis, sent out at the end of last January, that the original figure for the number of incompetent teachers given by Chris

Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, in a Panorama programme in the previous November was "a rough estimate" which had met with "justified criticism" from some inspectors.

Mr Woodhead gave a figure of 15,000 for primary and secondary teachers. Mrs Agambar's subsequent analysis for primary teachers suggests that the figure for primary is about 7000. The conclusions were based on 493 out of 20,000 primary schools, all with fewer than

Ofsted said that its report, published in November 1995, said that the quality of teaching was more important than the size of the class. "If you have two classes of the same size, it is the quality of the teacher that matters," a spokes-

woman said. Margaret Tulloch of the Campaign for the Advancement of State Education said: "One has to question politicians who quote the Ofsted research since this memo seems to cast doubt on it."

# Albania enters the zone

### **Andrew Gumbel**

Albania was in the grip of a rule of terror last night as the government imposed martial law, enforced a rigorous curfew, cracked down on foreign and domestic media and ordered its at the first sign of trouble.

With armed gangs roving around cities in the south and the population in growing ferment against a crumbling, corrupt government, President Sali Berisha and his confidents resorted to repression in a desperate attempt to restore order.

The streets of the capital, Tirana, were choking with uniformed and plainclothes police. Residents ventured out only to buy supplies of bread and other staples before scurrying back home. Foreigners terrified by reports of random attacks by plainclothes policemen, in-cluding one on a British journalist, abandoned their houses and offices and moved into the city's large international hotels for protection.

The local language services of the BBC and Voice of America, both key sources of independent information for Albanians, were pulled from their FM stots and the rest of the media was subjected to government censorship.

The offices of the country's most popular newspaper, Koha

Anthony Bevins and Donald Macintyre

Downing Street yesterday made

a rare - and improper - politi-cal intervention to defend John

Major's role in raising a cash do-

nation of £500,000 for the Con-

The allegation was levelled by Lord McAlpine of West Green.

the former fory treasurer, who

says in his latest book. Once a

Jolly Bogman, that it was the

highlight of his career as a

fund-raiser and came a year af-

ter he had given up the job. The delitacy of the issue was

underlined by Labour's deputy

leader, John Prescott, who

Prote to Mr Major about his al-

party funds from foreigners.

servative Party.

after a group of men burst in overnight and set fire to the building and lobbed Molotov cocktails in all directions.

The country's northern border with the Yugoslav republic: of Montenegro was closed and to leave the south of the country and Italian military helicopters flew over to the port of up about 40 of them and ferry

Albania has been sliding into

President Berisha announced the resignation of his government on Saturday and then, imposed a state of emergency with the head of the secret police, Shik, Bashkim Gazidede, in charge of overall security. He . blamed the crisis on Communists and foreign intelligence

pendent, Lord McAlpine said Tony Blair had demonstrated leadership quality, but Mr Ma-

jor had "shattered" his party.
"Has his leadership been a

triumph? I think its self-evident

the Conservative Party has been

shattered beyond imagination."

While saying Mr Major was a

good negotiator, he added: "I

think in truth good negotiators

don't make good prime minis-

ters, because being prime min-

ister isn't about negotiation,

tions. "If you ask me if I think

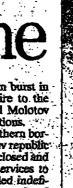
or £20,000 should be private,

then the answer's 'yes'. If you

should be private, then the an-

n's about leadership."

leged involvement in raising ask me whether a sum of 15m



in the south ferry services to nitely. Foreigners were ordered Viora, which has seen some of the worst of the unrest, to pick them to Brindisi, on the other side of the Adriatic.

anarchy for two months, as a series of fraudulent pyramid investment schemes has collapsed and hundreds of thousands of ruined Albanians have held the government to blame. Weeks of unrest culminated in gun battles hetween demonstrators and Shik secret policemen in Vlora over the weekend, followed by wholesale looting of army barracks and weapons deposits.



forever terrified of subversion from abroad.

Yesterday Mr Berisha added to the surreal echoes of the past by having himself re-elected resident for another five years m a fake show of democratic endorsement in parliament. Only members of Mr Berisha's Democratic Party, which domi-nates the legislature following last May's rigged elections, took part in the vote. Party loyalists celebrated Mr Berisha's "vicagents in an echo of the rhetoric of Enver Hoxha, Albania's long time Stalinist dictator who was

Downing Street defends Major

over cash donation charge

I think it is self-

evident. The Tory

Party has been

shattered beyond

imagination'

Donald Macintyre talks to Lord McAlpine of

West Green, page 12

In his book Lord McAlpine

said that in 1991 he was asked

to meet Mr Major at his Com-

proaching a generous donor,

man extract from the book as

John Latsis, a Greek shipping

magnate, who gave Lord

McAlpine a bearer's bond - a foreign businessmen have been

He also said he now favoured mons office, where he had been

public disclosure of big dona- asked to "help them out" by ap-

that sums of £10,000 or £15,000 identified in yesterday's Scots

It is not clear how long the ing ways of restraining Mr charade can continue. The Berisha and bringing him back armed forces are poorly equipped, largely with old Russ-ian and Chinese hardware, and its naval and air bases are un-

der the partial control of Nato. Last night rebels in the town of Sarander, near the Greek border, were reported to have seized control of a warship and begun firing. Earlier, they beat up the mayor, Carajev Zera, and burned police vehicles abandoned by the security forces. The international commu-

nity, meanwhile, was consider-

at the bond, put it in his pock-et and went out to dinner. Next

morning, as he walked across

Hyde Park to get to party head-quarters in Westminster, he

took out the bond, saw the sum and caught a taxi. He said: "From this episode, there is no

doubt John Major as Prime

Minister has played a greater part in the acquiring of dona-

tions than is good for either him or the party itself."

tanced himself from fund-rais-ing, but Mr Prescott said in his

letter: "The country needs to

know if it is true that you asked

Lord McAlpine to solicit a do-

nation from John Latsis ... We

need to know how many other

Since then Mr Major has dis-

to the negotiating table with the opposition over the establishment of an all-party transitional government

As reported in The Independent two weeks ago, Albania is a country propped up by the profits of organised crime, particularly arms and drugs smuggling. Intelligence services fear a protracted crisis could lead to a situation like Somalia, in which the country becomes prey to rival gangs fighting over the various lucrative rackets.

sistence. And we must be as-

sured that no hint has been

given that policy might be af-fected by such donations."

Earlier, a Downing Street

spokesman said he did not

know if Lord McAlpine's alle-

gations were true but insisted

Mr Major had been "absolute-

ly scrupulous". It is most un-

usual for the prime minister's

office to get involved in party

political issues, and talk about Mr Major's activities as leader

of the Conservative Party, but

the spokesman said: "It is the

Prime Minister who has set

down that there will be no

question of any fund-raising

taking place in Downing Street.

The Prime Minister complete-

ly divorced himself from fund-

When The Independent branded the Albanian government a "gangster regime", there were widespread protests from businessmen and Albanian

But it is increasingly evident that since 1991, when Communist rule collapsed, the police and army have been thoroughly tainted by the rackets and the judiciary has been purged of all independent voice. It will be almost impossible for any gov-ernment to reassert control over a restive, angry population that is now armed to the teeth.

QUICKLY

criticism from penal groups

yesterday as he urged the scrap-

ping of the presumption against

the criminal responsibility of children aged 10 to 13. Page 7 Leading article, page 11

Pakistan rail crash

Rescue workers used blow-

torches to sear through the

twisted wreckage in an attempt

to rescue trapped passengers

from a train that jumped its

tracks in eastern Punjab

province, Pakistan, yesterday,

killing at least 125 people and injuring another 175. Page 9

Oklahoma court row

A lawyer representing Timothy

McVeigh, defendant in the Ok-

lahoma bombing case, yesterday

denounced the Dallas Morning

News for printing a story based

on notes of a defence team

meeting which, he said, preju-

diced the rights of both his client

and the bombing victims. The

newspaper undertook not to

publish further excerpts. Page 9

Straw under fire Jack Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman, faced fresh



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approached for donations to the raising activities ..."

Lord McAlpine did not look Conservative Party at your in-

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### **Dorrell throws his weight** behind Broadmoor review

An immediate review of Broadmoor special hospital, in Berkshire, where some of the country's most dangerous criminals are held and said to be at "breaking point", must be completed by the end of the month the Secretary of State for Health said yesterday. Earlier, Stephen Dorrell warned that "fashionable ideas" and

"misguided liberalism" should not be allowed to compromise security in the hospital whose most famous inmate is Peter

Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper.

The Patients' Council at Broadmoor, which deals with conditions and complaints against the staff, was suspended for two weeks until last Thursday following the discovery of pornographic videos in the possession of a member of the council, who had tried to prevent his room being searched. The decision to hold a review comes in the wake of criticism of security and staffing levels at Broadmoor by the Prison Officers' Association, which warned in a recent report that the hospital was reaching "breaking point".

### No terrorist link to gun cache

A cache of weapons and ammunition found in an abandoned car is not linked to terrorism but destined for the criminal committy. detectives said yesterday. The 42 guns, including four machine pistols, were found after bomb-disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion on an Austin Metro, registration number B439 LSG, on Saturday. The police were alerted to the vehicle by the staff of the Tollgate Motel in Gravesend, Kent, where it had been parked for several days. Yesterday, officers appealed for information from anyone who may have seen the car or knows anyone who bought it recently.

### Legal aid crackdown announced



A further "crackdown" on abuses of the civil legal-aid scheme - this time concerning 'over-optimistic barristers' oninions – was set in train esterday by Gary Streeter, the parliamentary secretary at the Lord Chancellor's department.

"We shall review the use nade by the Legal Aid Board of counsels' opinions," Mr Streeter told MPs, adding that over-optimistic opinions lead "to legal aid being granted when it should not." Mr

Streeter said changes already introduced to weed out bogus claims. stop legal aid for the apparently wealthy and reform the way lawyers were paid had brought savings.

### E.coli breaks out in the Borders

Health chiefs in the Scottish Borders were last night continuing investigations into two separate E. coli 0157 outbreaks. In the village of Roberton, seven people are infected in a scare linked to a Burns Supper. In Hawick, two confirmed cases and one unconfirmed have been reported over the weekend in a new outbreak. Borders Health Board said the three people affected

bought cooked meat from W&J Hutton in Hawick. This is the latest spread to hit Scotland, where 18 pensioners died in a recent E. coli 0157 outbreak which started in Lanarkshire. Two elderly women also died during a scare in Arbroath last

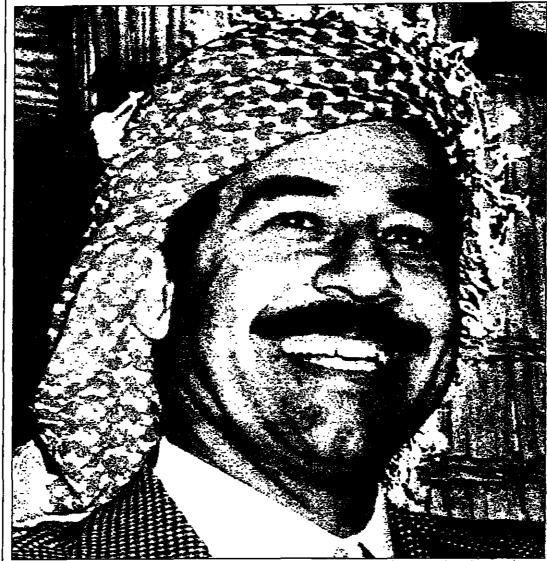
### Swampy free and unrepentant

Swampy, the roads protester, was defiant yesterday when he escaped with a conditional discharge for his week-long tunnel protest against work on the A30 near Fairmile, in Devon. Charged under his real name of Daniel Hooper. Swampy was one of 12 accused of resisting the bailiffs during the Fairmile protest five weeks ago. The 23-year-old protester is now living in another tunnel in the path of the second runway at Manchester Airport. He said after the case: "I think the sentence was a bit of a laugh ... I was sent £100 for a fine but now I will spend it on the Manchester Airport campaign. I think I will buy a new drill."

### No verdict in match-fixing case

The jury hearing match-fixing allegations against three soccer stars was last night sent home after failing to reach verdicts. Former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, 39, the former Aston Villa and Wimbledon striker John Fashanu, 34, the former Wimbledon keeper Hans Segers, 35, and Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim, 31, deny conspiring to give and accept corrupt payments to influence or attempt to influence the outcome of football matches. The case continues.

THE BIGGEST MEDICAL COMPLAINT



Saddam Hussein: The accusation of incompetence was especially irksome to the President

# The world's favourite villain in mother of all libel battles

t first glance, it would not appear to be a court action with great prospects of success. Saddam Hussein, the world's favourite stage villain, the man responsible for more acres of unfavourable ink to sue the magazine for being "offensive to a head of than anyone else alive, brought a libel action in the French courts yesterday.

The !raqi President, once described by President Bush as "worse than Hitler", took exception to an article last September in the French magazine Le Nouvel Observateur. Saddam's lawyer says he was especially angry at being called a "perfect cretin" and a "benet", which translates as "noodle". He was also imitated at being described as an "executioner", an "assassin", a "tyrant" and a "monster". But it was the magazine's suggestion that he was stupid and incompetent, based on information supplied by other Arab leaders, which most annoved him.

Saddam's lawyer, Patrick Brunot, said he was ready to call a string of character witnesses on his client's behalf. These would include the former French foreign minister and EU commissioner, Claude Cheysson. After a preliminary hearing, the 17th chamber of the Tri-bunal Correctionel said it would decide whether to accept the case on 1 April.

Lawyers for the magazine asked for the action to of Kurdisi be dismissed on the basis of a clause in the French kaq war.

defamation law of 1881, which allows journalists to criticise freely the political record of politicians. Under a state". This avenue is denied to him because France has no diplomatic relations with Iraq. Saddam is there-

fore bringing the action as an ordinary citizen. Saddam's motives for bringing the case are unclear atthough the F300,000 (£33,000) claimed would prob-ably come in useful, it seems unlikely that he would attempt a similar legal action in the US or Britain. The independent published extracts from the offending article, as did newspapers in several other countries. It is French press speculated yesterday that the hard leader. felt obliged to defend his reputation in France, because it is the one western country which has been mildle sympathetic to him (and arxious to rebuild its commercial contacts with Iraq) since the 1990 Gulf war.

Le Nouvel Observateur, its managing director, Claude Perdriel, and its editor, Jean Daniel (also the author of the article) have pledged to contest the action vigorously if the court allows it to go ahead. Mr Daniel said he would use full-scale court hearings to relate in full Saddam's responsibility for the gassing of Kurdish villagers and the huge death toll in the Iran-John Lichfield, Paris

Chef challenges

men-only marines

A 31-year-old former Army chef

to challenge the Royal Marines'

gela Sirdar, 31, from Norwich,

men-only recruitment policy. An-

claims the Marine corps was guilty

of sex discrimination when it pre-

vented her from applying for a job

as a chef. Yesterday she launched a bid for compensation against the

Ministry of Defence at an industrial

Mrs Sirdar, 31, whose husband,

Eugene, is an ex-Marine, was

made redundant from her job as

an Army chef with 29 Commando,

based at Plymouth, in early 1995.

The Marines then invited a large

number of redundant Army chefs

But Mrs Sirdar, who has a five-

she was told that she could not ap-

cause she was a woman. She was

Marines' men-only policy was that

all people serving in the Marines

had to be capable of fighting in a

war. Women were only allowed to

join the Marines as musicians, who

would provide stretcher-bearing or

backed by the Equal Opportunities

Commission, is fighting her case.

do not operate the policy on a day-

chefs serving who are not capable

or required to be fighting soldiers.

on the grounds that the Marines

to-day basis. She says there are

year-old daughter, Jasmin, claims

ply to switch to the Marines be-

told that the reason for the

guard duties in time of war.

Mrs Sirdar, whose claim is

tribunal in Norwich.

to apply for a transfer.

vesterday became the first woman

## briefing

### **Doctors and patients must** forge therapeutic alliance

Doctors have got to start treating patients as equals if they want them to take their medicine, says a report published loday. As many as half of all patients with serious chronic illnesses do not take their medication, with one in five kidney transplant putients, for example, not taking their anti-rejection drugs.

A joint working party, set up by The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and Merck Sharp and Donnie Ltd, today proposes an entirely new approach to the problem, wherehis

proposes an entirely new approach to the problem, whereby doctors and patients would "negotiate" with each other and forge a "therapeutic alliance". The patient should no longer be seen as the passive recipient of the doctor's advice.

The working party's research shows that patients fail to take their medicine for a variety of reasons, including physical and practical difficulties, such as problems in opening poorly designed containers or in remembering to take a number of different tablets at particular times of day. But the most powerful influences are the beliefs that they hold about their medication, such as the fear that they might become addicted, and these beliefs are firmly rooted in personal, family and cultural experiences, the report says.

From Compliance to Concordance, free from the Royal
Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street,
London SE1 7IN.
Annabel Ferriman

### COMMERCE

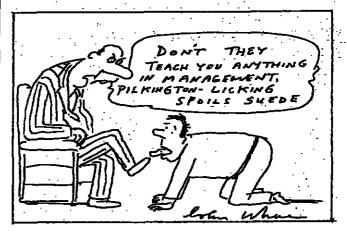
### Firms out of step with management

Men and women in management are becoming more equal, and

the real gap is between management are becoming note equal, and the real gap is between managers, companies and the way their organisations operate, a survey claimed yesterday.

The Institute of Management said its survey of 1,800 people showed that companies were generally "out of step" with their managers. Only 15 per cent of those surveyed said their firms encouraged staff participation, while one in three complained that their organisation was too bureaucratic.

The survey showed that 80 per cent of managers believed they received equal treatment regardless of their sex and the "old boy' network" was less of a barrier to promotion for women than in the past. A spokeswoman for the Institute said it was "pleasantly surprised" at the apparent equality between men and wom gers in the workplace.



### **BROADCASTING**

### Dunblane fails to curb TV violence

Television viewers saw more than 1,000 shootings in fewer than 250 of the most violent films broadcast last year, despite the national mood of shock following the Dunblane tragedy, the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association said yesterday. While gun arked a political and social debai the bullets flying on the four main channels, said the association's annual report on television violence.

The report asserts that guns featured, on average, four times per film, among the 246 analysed. Most of the films were shown after the 9pm watershed and some were postponed because of the Scottish school tragedy in which 16 children died.

ich strik

The most shocking scenes, were said to have included a guaman killing up to 40 people in the film *Django Kill* and a particularly brutal stabbing in David Lynch's *Wild at Heart*.

### SOCIETY

### Quarter of workers on poverty pay

One in four workers are on poverty pay levels of less than £4 an hour, according to a report published by the TUC yesterday to highlight wage "exploitation". More than 5 million people are on less than £4 while more than 1 million earn below £2.50 an hour, according to the report, aimed at making low pay an election

Low-paid workers were urged to question their local parliamentary candidates on whether they backed a national minimum wage, which Labour is planning to introduce if it wins the election. The party will set up a low pay commission made up of employers and unions to fix a statutory minimum rate.

The TUC said some of the lowest paid workers also had the worst employment conditions with no extra money for additional

skills or taking on more responsibility.

The TUC report said 20 per cent of full-time workers in Britain earned less than two-thirds of median wages, compared with 13 per cent in Germany, France and Italy and 5 per cent in Sweden.

### NATURE

### Otters spread throughout Scotland

Otters roam through central Glasgow and have returned to almost all of Scotland, a survey has found. The fish-eating mammal's population north of the border may now be over 10,000. Rosemary and Jim Green, who have carried out two previous Scottish otter surveys over the past 20 years, checked more than 3,000 riverbank sites throughout the country looking for otter droppings or

Their latest survey, which took four years and was financed by the Vincent Wildlife Trust, found that only 2 per cent of Scotland's area was now uncolonised. Even while it was underway, ofters returned to occupy the entire length of the Water of Leith, the

returned to occupy the entire tengin of the visual visual river which flows through Edinburgh.

While otters through most of Britain were wiped out mainly by pesticides and other water pollution they held out strongly in the north of Scotland. Now they have come back to much of the central belt between Edinburgh and Glasgow, and only small areas of the most densely populated (by humans) and polluted parts of Scotland now have none.

Nicholas Schoon

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**NEWSPAPERS** 



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### Vatican extends a cool hand to Irish President

A diplomatic spat has erupted over claims that the Vatican has snubbed the Irish President, Mary Robinson (right), by deciding not to confer any decoration on her when she visits the Pope this

The report, carried in the Irish Independent newspaper yesterday, was denied by Catholic Church sources in Dublin. A Church statement yesterday saying it was never policy to confer visiting heads of state with honours during private visits. Mrs Robinson's predecessor as Irish President, Patrick Hillery, was photographed being presented

with an honour during his visit to the Vatican in April 1989. The President's itinerary for her official visit to Italy listed the visit to the Vatican among her formal engagements during the four-day trip, which raised the question of whether the Holy See has now downgraded her meeting with the

Pope. Her four-day Italian visit will

also include dinner with President Scalfaro, and an address to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. The Irish Independent quoted sources in Rome as saying that "because of the President's known liberalism as a lawyer, particularly in taking on causes that confronted traditional Catholic Church teaching, she had

identified herself with the secular



standpoint." This referred to her role in campaigns for lifting the ban on contraception and the right to seek and provide

information on abortion, a battle which went to the European courts and was finally resolved by a 1992 referendum in favour of Mrs Robinson's liberal camp after she had become head of state.

Diplomatic sources in Dublin stressed President Hillery's 1989 Vatican state. An Irish diplomatic source told The Independent: Mrs Robinson "is not on an official visit to the Vatican. She is on an official visit to Rome, to the FAO. Mr Hillery was on an official state visit to the Vatican." - which seemed to support the Church account.

trip had been an official visit to the

# I spied for Russia, CIA chief tells court

The latest tawdry sub-chapter in the history of American espionage closed yesterday as Harold Nicholson, the highest ranking CIA officer ever to have worked for Ruscia, uttered a simple, "Guilty, your ho-nour." to charges he had sold US secrets to Moscow.

Dressed in a khaki jumpsuit, the man who had served as a top CIA station officer in Tokyo, Bangkok, Manila and Bucharest was in the federal courtroom in Alexandria, Virginia, for just 14 minutes. Despite the plea bargain, which allows the US authorities to keep sensitive intelligence data from being aired at a public trial. Nicholson still faces a jail term of between 20 years and life. He will be sentenced on 5 June.

Mr Nicholson's deal with prosecutors comes just three days after a similar plea bargain by James Earl Pitts, a former FBI supervisor who admitted he had

worked for the KGB and its successors since 1987. Despite his rank, in terms of damage inflicted the 16-year-old Nicholson does not remotely approach Aldrich Ames, the super-mole arrested in 1994 after being paid \$2.9m by the KGB during a nine-year spy-Ing career that devastated the CIA's operations against the former Soviet Union, and cost the lives of

at least 10 Russians who worked for the US. Mr Nicholson was paid over \$180,000 for two years of spying between 1994 and 1996, when he worked as a teacher at the CIA's training centre in Virginia. He is said to have handed the Russians the names of his recruits. He was arrested as he was about to board a flight for Switzerland with documents al-

legedly destined for the Russians. Rupert Comwell, Washington

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# Coup de théâtre as foes across footlights do a swap



Steven Berkoff: When you Michael Begdanes 4 am let lose some pathetic four office asked which critic of his superior, he has the distille the most lain band. chance, the once to a life pushed. There are many time opportunity to vertail the committees billious frustration of his upmarked and uncleared life.



Arts Correspondent

Directors and actors who have boiled with fury over lacerating reviews are to get their revenge. Four theatre critics have agreed to direct plays and see them assessed in print by their erstwhile victims.

This could mean payback time, judging by recent attacks on critics by directors. One of the most memorable was by Steven Berkoff last year. "Where on earth did you dig up that piece of desiccated back to spew off his frustration and venom from a life of miserable flops?" was merely the first line of a letter to the Times Lit-

Michael Bogdanov, artistic director of the English Shakespeare Company, lashed out at the New Statesman critics, who

were guilty of "appalling lack of Kingston of the Times has cho- simply used by people who vision. One critic, not named, was "randomly influenced by who he's with, if he's eaten, where he sits, whether it's raining or he's suffering from a cold [He] is vicious, vituperative,

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vimolic, objectionable, abusive, arrogant, excretory, disgruntled, Despite the possibility that the likes of Bogdanov and Berkoff will seize the chance to get their own back, the national critics have agreed to direct plays for public consumption at Battersea Aris Centre, south-

three weeks from 8 April. Nicholas de Jongh of the London Evening Standard will direct Anouilh's The Traveller without Luggage, the Guardian's Michael Billington is to offer Pinter's The Lover and Strindberg's The Stronger, Jeremy

west London, to be staged for

sen Albertine in Five Times by Tremblay and the freelance critic James Christopher has opted for a new play, Robert Young's Shoe Shop of Desire. Mr de Jongh admitted in his

paper yesterday: "Perhaps I, or all of us, will turn out to be whipping-boys and subjects for excorrating reviews which point out how unimaginative, incompetent and uninteresting we are as theatre directors. This may be entirely true. But perhaps the whole process may siphon off a little of the accumulated bile which is stored and festered in some thespian hearts."

Mr Billington denied taking part was an act of courage. "You say it's courageous, I think it would be timorous not to seize the opportunity if offered ... It would be very boring if it was

have some revenge motive. What I'd hope would happen is that practising artists would discuss the work seriously. If it was just vulgar retaliation it

would be ... pointless."
While the "reviewers" have yet to be named, thespians look forward with relish to a clash of the titans, such as Billington v Berkoff. The only director confirmed so far is Stephen Daldry, of the Royal Court, who will re-view Mr de Jongh for the Standard. Luckily for him, Mr de Jongh has on the whole been generous to Daldry in his reviews, although the director may not have forgotten that de Jough described his 1994 production of The Kitchen as "an utterly bizarre choice for the new artistic director's début on

the Court's main stage". Leading article, page 11



Nicholas de Jongh: This is no evening of cheap thrills or have a ritual exhumation of Studs, presented by Dublin's There Were None which Passion Machine Theatre, ... is so preposterously bad never lives down to its title ... A spectacularly boring play."



Michael Billington: We now indeed of any thrills at all. Agatha Christie's And Then ... is so preposterously bad it has acquired the dubious

# There is a poison running through the parish'

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Scotland

It began as a simple personality. clash, a mismatch of ecclesiastical a vicar. minds. By yesterday the parish of ... As a result Mrs Pitts, who to-King's Norton in Birmingham was the scene of open rancour, amid mutterings of racism and sexism, and a decidedly unChristian spirit of ill will. -

The ill will is levelled at the Rev Eve Pitts, a black woman priest who refused to resign after complaining about a male colleague. The Rev Martin Leigh, the colleague con-cerned, had retired to his sick-bed suffering from stress. Sides have been taken; several lifelong friends

are no longer on speaking terms. Mrs Pitts, 46, who was ordained Britain's first black female vicar, claimed during a church service that

### Bishop Santer to marry divorcée

The Bishop of Birmingham, is to be married for the second time - to a divorcee. The Rt Rev Mark Santer, 60, who is soon to become a grandfather for the first time, will many Sabine Bird, 58, at a register office ceremony in a few weeks' time.

Mrs Bird, a probation officer, has known the bishop for many years and was a close friend of his first wife, Henriette, who died in 1994. She divorced her first husband in 1983.

A spokesman for Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury said the bishop had taken the Archbishop into his confidence regarding the re-lationship and the Archbishop wished the couple "every rich blessing and happiness".

Mr Leigh, the senior cleric, was using her "as a doormat" and treating her more like a curate than

gether with Mr Leigh is part of a learn of five Anglican priests in the parish of 30,000 people, was asked to resign by the Bishop of Birm-ingham, the Rt Rev Mark Santer.

She refused point blank and Mr Leigh, overcome with the stress of the situation, took to his sick-bed, where he has remained for the past. two mouths. The acting Rector at St-

Nicholas's Church, the Rev Roger Bristow, said his colleague had been off work since January.

nervous breakdown as a result of the stress this has caused. He has been suffering from illness for some time," he said. Yesterday the diocesan Archdea-

con, the Venerable John Duncan,

weighed into the row, saying the situation in the parish had become intolerable. "There is a poison running

through the parish and there are divisions in the parish," he said solemnly. "Some are on one side and and some are on the other and it is not

an exaggeration to say that lifelong friends have broken up over this. And he added that he "absolutely rejected" reports of a racial motive behind the row. But the Rev Theo Samuel, of the

Association of Black Clergy who has taken up Mrs Pitts's case, said she was clearly the victim of both racism and sexism. "It is blatantly clear that she has

West Drayton, west London. "They say that relationships with-



At odds: The Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Rev Mark Santer, and the Rev Eve Pitts Photographs: Newsteam/Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

in the parish have broken down and then come to the conclusion that the reason is Eve Pitts. The assumption is that a black person, and a woman

at that, doesn't fit in so she must be "We are nearly in the 21st century, not the 19th where obedience meant total submission. We will not think of obedience as acting like

slaves, we are thinking people. \*Our association works its guis out to get black people to join the Church of England and our job is going to be that much more diffi-

been victimised by the hierarchy," cult with this kind of attitude." Mr Samuel said Mrs Pitts had he thundered from his church in been summoned to the bishop's residence on 23 December last year

where she was presented with a typed letter of resignation ready for

her to sign. "She went along thinking she would be offered pastoral support but instead she find a pre-typed letter of resignation, purporting to be from her and she had force put

upon her to sign it. He said that Mrs Pitts had only spoken out about the attitude against her when it all became too

Mr Samuel revealed that feelings on the dispute were now running so high that even he had been on the receiving end of threats.

"A telephone call threatened me that if I continued on this particu-

lar line I had better be careful when

I come to retire in three years or my pension will be gone," he said. Most indicative of this "attitude", according to Mrs Pitts's supporters, was a letter to worshippers on Sunday in which the bishop said that her public outbursts had "made it impossible for her to continue to function effectively" in her present role. He also barred her from

"Her continuing presence is good neither for the parish itself, nor for herself and her family," the letter

preaching at her present church, St

Vicholas.

Mrs Pitts was asked to resign on the understanding that she would

continue to receive her full stipend and housing until she found another post or until the expiry of her pre-

sent contract in April 1999. The bishop said that Mrs Pitts had talked about moving several times over the last two years and he had asked her to consider at least three other posts. She had declined all suggestions and refused to resign despite pleas from senior church of-

But the woman at the centre of row yesterday remained serene amid the flapping of cassocks. "I have nothing to say myself about the situation, I'm about to go out to work," she said before closing the

# Tango advert is flavour of the year

Marianne Macdonald

The blackcurrant Tango advertisement was the best commercial made last year, according to the Creative Circle awards revealed last night.

It shows Roy Gardner, a sober-suited "spokesman" for the fizzy drink, reading out a letter from a French foreign exchange student. Sebastian, which says blackcurrant is not one of his favourite flavours.

Mounting chauvinist hysteria takes over as he marches irately through the office joined by a bearded nerd who has spent three years developing the drink.

Roy and the nerd leave the building and as they do so Roy strips off his suit to reveal a pair of purple boxing shorts. Then he marches on to a battlefield joined by hordes bearing blackcurrant banners. Finally Roy gets into a blackcurrant boxer's gown as he strides towards a boxing-ring which, as the camera pulls away, appears to be at the edge of the white cliffs of Dover. "Come on Sebastian, come on France," he shouts.

The commercial, which was honoured in the platinum section, also won the gold award for best use of humour, as did its sister advert for apple Tango. Both advertisements are by the advertising agency Howell Henry Chaldecott Lury for Britvic. The Ministry of Sound's Use Your Vote

advertisements by BMP DDB took gold awards for the best use of production budget under £40,000, best idea in 60 seconds or over, and best campaign or series.

The best poster was named us TBWA's Pretty Polly hold-ups commercial by Trevor Beattie, which showed a pair of impossibly tall legs on a tall, thin poster which stretched high above the roadway.

J Walter Thompson won the gold award for best innovative use of media for its campaign which apparently replaced bus tyres with Polo mints for the Polo strong product by Nestle.



Purple patch: Blackcurrant Tango won the prize for best commercial

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# State sell-offs' knock-down prices cost £100m

Folitical Correspondent

A £100m "black hole" has opened up in the public finances after ministers allowed four flagship privatisations to go through at knock-down prices. Labour said last night.

The sales, all of which have were meant to raise almost

£400m but were finally made for involved with the Electra Flematotal of £298m, according to involved with the Electra Fleming - Tom King, former Secrefigures obtained by the Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of

Lancaster, Derek Foster. The least profitable of all was the sale of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, bought by Electra Fleming for £54m despite its £100m price tag. This sale has also attracted attention because two former cabinet ministers are

tary of State for Defence, is on the board of one of its two parent companies, the Electra Investment Trust, and Tim Renton, former chief whip, is consultant to the other, Robert

Fleming Holdings.
The HMSO sale is now being investigated by the National Audit Office, as most large

The other knock-down sales included the Atomic Energy Authority, which raised £210m when it was floated on the stock exchange last September despite expectations that it would sell for around £250m.

Chessington Computer Centre was sold to a management buy-out team for £11m despite a pre-sale price tag of £20m.

been sold to an American com-puter company, EDS, for £23m, though the sale was expected to

This last privatisation has also attracted criticism because of its speed. Civil service unions have announced that they are planning a legal challenge to the sale of the Paymaster Agency on the grounds that attempts to

push it through before the gen-eral election have left insuffi-

Mr Foster said that had the extra £100m been raised it would have paid for 3,000 po-

adopted a car boot sale ap-

proach to valuable public assets

lice officers, 5,000 nurses or a new hospital. He added: "As the election looms the Conservatives have

down price, no questions asked. ...
"In desperation the Conservatives have resorted to anything which will raise a quick

buck. Hard-pressed tax-payers deserve better than this £100 million black hole." A Treasury spokesman said that it did not publish pre-sale estimates and that although

the House of Commons library

everything must go at a knock had produced figures for the regleaned from newspaper cuttings. The government had raised £70 billion since 1979 from privatisations, he added. Value for money is the key obective and these sales were no different. The reality sometimes turns out to be somewhat different from some of the wilder pre-sales estimates."

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# The Queen invites Asians to the party

Chief Political Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced that the Queen is to open Buckingham Palace Garden parties to more members of the British Asian community as part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of indepen-

dence for India and Pakistan. Lord Cranborne, the Leader of the House of Lords, who is in charge of the celebrations, announced that the year of events will start with a government banquet in Whitehall next Monday, and a fund will be started for a war memorial.

Lord Cranborne said the planned programme was a national, not a party political matter, and that Labour's National Heritage spokesman. Dr Jack Cunningham, had been fully briefed about the plans and had supported them.

But the Government's early start for the independence celebrations, which is officially marked in August, was seen at Westminster as part of the campaign to woo influential Asian voters in the run-up to the general election, highlighted yesterday in The Independent.

The Confederation of Indi-

Tory constituencies: Batley and Spen (Elizabeth Peacock). Brentford and Isleworth (Nirj Deva) Edmonton (Ian Twinn). Hayes and Harlington (Terry Dicks), with the new seats Halesowen and Rowley Regis, and Oldham East and Saddleworth.

The group is planning to target Asian and Afro-Caribbean voters in each of the constituencies with pamphlets setting out pledges by each of the three main parties on immigration policy. They estimate that swings of only a few hundred voters in each of the seats could have an impact on the

Haves and Harlington, the seat held by Mr Dicks, an outspoken right-wing Tory MP, is second on Labour's hit list of winnable marginals. It is estimated that there is a majority of only 44 votes and a total 5.500 ethnic minority voters.

Lord Cranborne spoke of the contribution to Britain made by the Asian community. who own 65 per cent of all independent shops in this country. He said the Queen would be giving "particular prominent to British Asians at this vear's garden parties".

To reinforce that message, he an Organisations UK, repre-said, the Prince of Wales was senting hundreds of thousands holding a reception at St of Asians, is targeting eight. James's Palace to mark the an-the Lord Privy Seal, said: "I core programme of events backed by the former Speaker both world wars. marginal seats, including six niversary. The Queen will be vis- hope we can make this a very planned in Britain follows a vis- of the Commons, Lord Weath-



Fishing for votes: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, holding a fish during a tour of Asian businesses in Bethnal Green, east London, yesterday. Joining him as he talked to the businessmen about economic conditions was Bakth Faruk (right), the constituency chairman for Bethnal Green and Bow

Lord Cranborne, who is also

iting India and Pakistan later in real contribution to harmony in it by the Prime Minister in Jan-erill, and Viscount Slim, who War the Indian Army was comthe year and the Royal Yacht this country, and a celebration uary to India, Pakistan and both served in the Indian Army posed entirely of volunteers. Britannia will also pay a cour- which I think is well worth Bangladesh. undertaking

The announcement of the

An appeal fund is to be launched later this year -

- to raise money for a memorial in London to soldiers from the sub-continent who died in

The wartime Indian Army was the largest volunteer force ever assembled, and its men won 31 assembled, and its men won 31 milk to the door. You can't trust the Tories with our daily pinta." During the Second World awards for gallantry.

## Labour plea for doorstep pinta

Fran Abrams

Doorstep deliveries of milk have dropped to less than half their 1982 level, Labour said yes-terday as it launched a campaign

to save the British daily pint.
Gavin Strang, the shadow
Agriculture Minister, said only 39 per cent of households now had milk delivered every day. compared with 86 per cent in 1982. Sales were dropping at a rate of around five per cent per year, he said.

The National Dairymen's Association and the National Pensioners Convention have collected thousands of signatures for a petition against the decline, which was presented in the House of Commons last night. The Dairy Industry Federation has been working to identify ways of supporting the industry through improved mar-keting and information-gath-

Mr Strang said that the de-cline had been accelerated by the deregulation of the milk industry in November 1994, Since then prices had gone up, he said, and a tax of £35 per year had been imposed on electric milk

Labour also claims that the Government might put VAT on food if it won the election, raising the price of a pint of milk from around 38 pence to 44

Mr Strang said the party would argue for changes in the Common Agricultural Policy

"The doorstep delivery service brings social and community benefits as well as bringing

# Labour sticks with key seat strategy



strategy is working

Political Editor

Labour activists have been warned by John Prescott, the party's deputy leader, that they must "keep their eye on the half" of an election strategy that could deliver Tony Blair a working Commons majority of about

The party's current "key seats strategy" is targeted on 90 marginal Tory constituencies that would fall to Labour on a swing of up to 8 per cent. But the 17 per cent swing

from the Tories to Labour in Wirral South has prompted

some constituencies to ask party headquarters to "lift their sights", giving special assistance to seats that would be vulnerable to a Labour landslide.

Firmly resisting that plea.

Mr Prescott told a party meeting in Mansfield, Notting-hamshire, last weekend: "We must keep our eye on the main ball, keep the existing strategy. and keep working at it. The key-seats strategy is working, it worked well in Wirral South. and it will see us through."

A senior party source said yesterday that it had taken 18. months to build up the machinery in the 90 target seats.

with trained volunteers being drafted in from other constituencies, "switching" voters identified, and contact maintained with them.

On the "other side", it was said that the Conservatives were being handicapped by the fact that they had lost so many councillors over recent years, and that Tory MPs were so worried about protecting their own seats that they were unwilling to help their more marginal colleagues. The only thing they've got go-ing for them is money, now thought to be about £40m. If they could buy victory, they

would," the source said.

It is believed that the keyseats strategy was proved in Wirral South, although one Wirral source said during the campaign that Mr Blair's office had "wobbled" at one point. There was even a Westminster suggestion that Birkenhead MP Frank Field might be put in

charge of the local campaign.
A party spokesman told The Independent yesterday: "There is some pressure for us to increase the target list, but we are going to stick to the existing strategy." However, he said it was always possible that other seats could fall to Labour during an election campaign, and

different "degrees of assistance" could be provided.

The spokesman said it was "preposterous" to think Labour was now heading for a national swing of 17 per cent, and that the party should dilute its efforts in the key seats - even by increasing its target to the 104 Tory seats that would fall on a swing of up to 9 per cent to Labour.

A special by-election effort had been put into Wirral South, and although polls suggested Labour would hold the seat in the general election, that did not mean other, equally "safe" Tory seats were now vulnerable to

# The blurred thoughts of Mr Dorrell

Polly Toynbee and Anthony Bevins

The Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, said yesterday that his Sunday gaffe on the single currency had been the result of "cock-up", rather than conspiracy.

His statement that Britain would not join the single cur-rency at the start of 1999, and that membership would not be possible, was in direct conflict with the agreed Cabinet line.

Following detailed negotia-tion, the Cabinet agreed on 23 January that participation in a single currency was highly unlikely but not impossible.

After he was forced to issue complete retraction of his own words on Sunday, Mr Dorrell told The Independent yesterday: "I used the wrong form of words. My thought process was blurred at that particular mo-

"I had the Government line, the truth is I couldn't remember precisely at the right mo-ment precisely what the formula was. And the formula was that there was an extremely small chance of us joining in, say, 1999. And I think the word I actually fumbled during the end was 'vanishingly' small. So, in the end, the difference was between unsighingly and the same transfer of th between vanishingly small and extremely small." In fact, it was not until the

third time of asking that Mr. Dorrell spoke of the "vanish-ingly small" chance of British

membership.
Many of Mr Dorrell's ministerial and backbench colleagues were incredulous yesterday that he could have made such a missuspicion that his formula must have been a deliberate attempt, cither to enhance his chances in a leadership contest, or to blur the Government's line in the. minds of the electorate.



Poridge

Dorrell: Not a conspiracy, just a simple 'cock-up'

theories were put to Mr Dorrell yesterday, he said: "It's the cock-up theory... I fumbled my way rather inelegantly to the words vanishingly small."

The minister who had most reason to be distressed by the gaffe, Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yes-terday dismissed suggestions that the Government was changing its policy as "froth and

He also rejected the notion that Mr Dorrell was bidding for the party leadership, by broadening his appeal to Conservative Euro-sceptics.

The Chancellor said: "If there is any colleague of mine behaving in that way they must have taken leave of their senses and they ought to be concentrating on getting this party back into office."

He said Mr Dorrell had telephoned him after the broadcast to warn him about the contro-

versy which he had created. We had a very relaxed char on the telephone," Mr Clarke take, and there remained a said. "I cheered him up. He did not tell me he was going to issue a statement, but he has issued a statement saying that he was not changing the policy. that he was agreeing with Cabninds of the electorate. inet policy, which he quite when those two conspiracy obviously is."



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# Thousands told to boil water after sickness outbreak

Thousands of families were yesterday told to boil their water before using it after a warning that they risk sickness and severe diarrhoea.

water-borne micro-organism, cryptosporidium, which causes serious and prolonged stomach

Three Valleys Water, which serves Hertfordshire and northwest London, broadcast warnings to 300,000 families after samples of water were found to be carrying the germ. Christine Murphy, of the

Public Health Service Laboratory, said: "The number of people affected by this latest outbreak is fluctuating.

'We are advising worried families to boil their water for the next three days.

"We always expect to see between 4,000 to 5,000 cases each year but each outbreak is

taken seriously. Cryptosporidium causes diarrhoea which can last up to There is a possibility that this three weeks and is potentially ground water, which is naturally

to a group of protozoa and occurs naturally in farm animals, can be washed into the water severe diarrhoea.

The advice was issued by public health officials after 32 through contaminated water people became unwell due to a or contact with an infected person, but unpasteurised milk and offal also carry risks.

A spokesman for Three Valleys Water said: "We are advising customers to boil their water as a precautionary meavestigation into this outbreak.

"Although there is no specific treatment for the iliness, we are also advising sufferers to drink plenty of fluids to cleanse their

According to environmental specialists this latest outbreak is unusual because the water is

from a ground source supply.
Philip Lightowlers, of the Environmental Data Service Journal, said: "We usually see crypto in surface water supplies hich have the most rigorous



filtered through rocks, didn't fordshire Health Authority said undergo the same stringent tests, but we will have to wait for the investigation to see whether

this is the case."

the outbreak had not reached epidemic levels. "But we are seeing about three times as many cases as we would normally expect this time of year.

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"At the moment, no one is seriously ill or in hospital to our knowledge, but we are monitoring their progress closely." In 1989 an outbreak of cryp-tosporidiosis in Humberside

prompted a Department of the Environment recommendation for water companies to keep a close watch on heavy rainfalls and dumping. The report also

should monitor water treatment

Despite increased water observation, there have been five serious outbreaks since 1992.

Drinking Water Inspectorate, said: "We will be carrying out could have done anything to prevent this latest outbreak.

# Sex harassment 'rife in mental hospital wards'

Sexual harassment of female patients in mental hospitals is rife, according to a report by Mental Health Act Commissioners and the Sainsbury Centre for

Mental Health. The commissioners visited 309 acute psychiatric wards in 118 NHS Trusts in England and Wales - almost 50 per cent of all mental health in-patient services

- one day last November. In just over half the wards visited, it was discovered that adequately staffed by trained women patients were being harassed by male patients. Prob-lems included flashing, physical assaults and verbal harassment

of vulnerable women. The unannounced inspections were concerned with the numbers and qualifications of nursing staff, staff understanding of policy, procedures about leave for detained patients and the safety and privacy of women

of whom were detained under the Mental Health Act. Excluding those on overnight leave, there were 5,515 patients present on the wards: 2,743 men and 2,772 women. Although the commissioners

considerable difficulties in

The total number of admit-

ted patients was 6,361, a third

authorising such leave.

discovered that the wards were and experienced nurses, a large proportion of nurses' time was taken up observing those at risk of harming themselves or

The report's most worrying conclusions, however, related to the safety and privacy of women. Just over half the wards identified problems of sexual harassment of women patients by male patients, including exploitation of vulnerable women, Commissioners discovered verbal harassment, watching or ments".

that 32 detained patients were following female patients, absent without leave and that many hospitals were having touching of women patients.

share toilets with male patients or had to walk through or past areas for men to use baths, showers or toilets, and a small number of women (3 per cent) had to share sleeping

areas with male patients.
Viscountess Runciman, chairwoman of the Mental Health Act Commission, said: "The picture is mixed but not unhopeful and the report will enable particular attention to be paid to that vital component of mental health services; the care and treatment in hospital of patients with severe mental illness.

Dr Matt Muijen, director of the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, said: This report is a unique snapshot of national acute in-patient mental health services, and it provides useful information for managers to set targets for quality improve-

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# Gene therapy offers hope for cystic fibrosis

Charles Arthur Science Editor

British scientists have taken an important step forward by showing that cells in people with cystic fibrosis can be repaired by replacing faulty genes with working ones.
A clinical trial has now begun

with more than 10 patients in London to try to introduce genes into cells in the lungs of patients, following the latest successes. In those, two clinical trials - one in Edinburgh and another in Oxford and Cambridge - showed that genes which correct the cause of cystic fibrosis can be delivered to cells in the nose lining by using

fatty cells known as liposomes. "We were looking for safety and the actual transfer of the genes," said Dr Martin Scott, of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Maria ....

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Both studies have shown that this system is safe, and have produced weak signals that the gene instructions are being

He added that "things are on course, from the cystic fibrosis point of view towards an eventual cure by gene therapy. Cystic fibrosis, which causes direction."

the body's glands to overproduce mucus, is the most com-

affecting one in 2,500 babies. The single gene which causes it was identified in 1989. The idea of replacing faulty genes with working ones has been held out as a hope for years to sufferers. But nobody was sure genes introduced into

mon life-threatening inherited

disease in the United Kingdom,

body cells would perform the function they were meant to. The latest studies, published in the journal Gene Therapy, follow years of mixed fortunes for those trying to develop gene therapy cures for cystic fibrosis.

Britain's first gene therapy patient, Carly Todd, received genes intended to correct her cystic fibrosis in 1993. But a year after the operation doctors could find no traces of the new genes. She recently had a bone

marrow transplant. The author of work in Edinburgh, Professor David Porteous of the MRC Haman Genetics Unit and Edinburgh University, said: "There is a long way still to go before we have a cure for cystic fibrosis, but we are moving in the right 

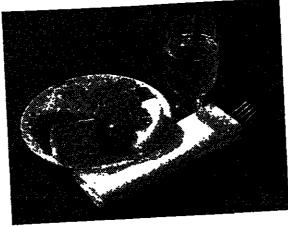
## Minister's vision for armchair revolution

It may not be warm beer and cycling spinsters, but it is a vision of the future from John Major's government. In future, householders could apply for their car tax via their television sets, while pensioners would use post offices to check their income tax, and parents compare the performance of local schools via an information kiosk in their local shopping centre,

writes Charles Arthur. The hi-tech scenario would be part of an "armchair revolution", said Roger Freeman, the public services minister, as he announced the proposals to

the House of Commons. They form part of the new "government direct" initiative, shadowed by a Green Paper last year. It aims to make government services more flexible and responsive, while cutting costs for business and the public to deal with government.

But Derek Foster, for Labour, said Mr Freeman's statement bore "all the marks of a last-gasp technology gimmick by the party of the past". and he warned of a "dangerous split between the information haves and the information



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# A skier with altitude set to bag the big seven

Stephen Goodwin

Graham Austick, a 26-year-old from Northumberland, has set his sights on becoming the first person to ski from the summit of the highest mountain on each of the seven continents.

He hopes it will establish him as a professional ski-mountaineer. Culminating at Everest in 2000, it should at least provide a wealth of film and lecture material. But Mr Austick is not solely motivated by com-merce. "Obviously...I am tryingto make a career. But it is an irresistible challenge and it is going to be loss of fun," he said. He will go with a Danish film team and his Austrian climbing partner, Lother Brunner.

Ski-mountaineering is a hybrid of two activities. Ascending is made possible by "skins" on each ski to give uphill traction. Icy or rocky sections are climbed conventionally, with skis carried on the rucksack. At the high point the "skins" are removed and the thrill of skiing down begins, though tricky sections may have to be abseiled or down-climbed.

Mr Austick's first target, in May, is Mt Elbrus (5,642m), in the Russian Caucasus, regard-ed as Europe's highest peak. In November the team flies to Argentina to attempt Aconcagua (6,960m), where winds can reach 160mph and where temperatures can fall to -45C.

The 1998 programme is Mt McKinley (6,194m), in Alaska, and Mt Kilimanjaro (5,895m), in Tanzania. In 1999 Austick will aim for Mt Vinson (4,897m), in Antarctica, and Mt Cook (3,754m), in New Zealand, though the Australasian target could shift to Indonesia.

Finally, in May 2000 comes Everest (8,848m), which has been skied before. In May last year Hans Kammerlander, from South Tyrol, reached the summit in a record 17-hour climb, alone and without oxygen. He skied down, removing his skis



# Labour to lower age of children's criminality

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

Jack Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman, faced fresh criticism from penal groups vesterday as he urged the scrapping of the presumption against the criminal responsibility of

children aged 10 to 13. The call for an end to the medieval doctrine of doli incapar, which assumes the youngsters do not know right from wrong unless the prosecution proves otherwise, was one of six key policy points for invenile crime spotlighted by Mr Straw in a pre-election visit to Newark in Nottinghamshire.

He claimed the doctrine defied common sense and made it "very difficult for youth courts to convict younger offenders and start the process of changing their offending behaviour.

"I propose to change the law so that the assumption will



Jack Straw: Change of law

be that if [a] 10- to 13-year-old commits a crime it will be assumed that they knew it was wrong," he said. "It would be open to the defence in a particular case to argue that the child did not know the difference between rights and wrong. for example, if the child had serious learning handicaps.

Outlining the other five points, Mr Straw renewed

# Britain out of step on right and wrong

Jack Straw's proposal is another step in a trend of treating children in trouble the same as cure accommodation orders. adults, in contrast to nearly a century of laws suggesting the

The current presumption is often rebutted, most notably in the case of the two 10-year-olds convicted of murdering the Liv-erpool toddler James Bulger in 1993, but also in scores of less serious cases in youth courts.

But the switching of the burden of proof from prosecution to defence would reinforce in the minds of sentencers that children should be exposed to the full force of the criminal law at an earlier age – and much younger than in most comparable Western European countries. It would signal an end to the view that children should not be held as fully criminally responsible as adults, even though the civil law already

to be made the subject of supervision or care orders, or se-

The change would mean an end to the prosecution being required to produce something more than proof that an offence has been committed. In serious Crown Court cases before juries, this typically takes the form of testimony from child behavioural specialists and/or a child's teachers. In cases before magistrates, it will usually be evidence of the way the child re-

sponded to police questioning. The proposal would put Britain out of line with other European Union countries. Germany treats 14- to 18-yearolds as juveniles, 18- to 21-yearolds as young adults. In France, 13- to 18-year-olds are juveniles and in Spain children under 16 are not criminally responsible.

Labour's pledges to introduce parental responsibility orders, community safety injunctions backed by the threat of imprisonment, the replacement of repeated cautions with a single final warning, and to clarify the right of criminal courts to send a young offender to secure accommodation.

At the invitation of Fiona Jones, the prospective Labour parliamentary candidate for Newark, Mr Straw visited the village of Balderton, where villagers recently held a public meeting to demand action against three boys aged 10, 12 and 14 who had been terroris-

ing residents.

Mr Straw appeared to have outdone Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, whose own Green Paper on youth crime is due today. Mr Howard dis-missed Labour's plans to scrap the test for criminality, saying that youngsters could not use it to escape criminal responsibil-

ity altogether.
Mr Howard also highlighted yesterday's announcement of the signing of the contract for the first secure training centre, at Cookham Wood, Kent, with the Rebound/Tarmac consortium. The secure training centre order is a new sentence for 12- to 14-year-old persistent offenders. "That was completely opposed by Labour when we took it through Par-liament," Mr Howard said.

There was criticism from the Penal Affairs Consortium, an alliance of 33 penal organisations. of Labour's plans to scrap legal safeguards for child defendants.

Paul Cavadino, the chairman, said: "We welcome Labour's proposals to provide greater education and support for parents and to reduce delays in the youth justice system.

"However, legal safeguards for children aged 10-13 should not be eroded. The doli incapax rule should not be abolished unless this is accompanied by a raising of this country's unusually low age of criminal responsibility ...

# Europe-wide unions come a step closer

lop links abroad

Mr Edmonds said unions

had to respond to the "Euro-peanisation" of companies.

There had been co-operation between the GMB and IG

Chemie for the last four years,

now that was to be taken a step

The long-term intention is to develop collective bargaining at European level. This is one

stage in that direction," Mr

Edmonds said. He stressed that unions were still a long way from that level of co-operation, but

there was already substantial contact between European

employees' representatives at

union was looking to tie up sim-

ilar arrangements with at least

one other union in continental

He said that both unions al-

ready participated in works'

conneils and there was a strong

case for representatives from both to sit down and work out

a common agenda before critical meetings.

Mr Schmoldt said that the

accord was the first his union

had reached with any similar

organisation in another

European Union country. It

was, however, a stimulus to

The German union leader

hoped that the link-up would

mean increasing harmonisa-

tion between health and safety

rules and the provisions for

working hours in Germany and

start talks elsewhere.

The GMB leader said his

the level of works' councils.

further.

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

Pan-European trade unions came a step closer yesterday as a deal was struck between the biggest employees' organisa-tions in Britain and Germany. The GMB general union and the IG Chemie made an agree-

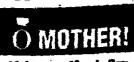
ment that will give nearly two million workers in both countries duel membership. Senior union leaders believe that the single European currency is inevitable, that wages

and conditions will eventually be determined at single bargaining tables throughout the continent and that the future for workers now lies in international organisation. The inter-union pact contrasts with the deep divisions over Europe in the Conserva-

tive Party, and could well fuel the fears over monetary union expressed by the Europhobes. The union deal was signed yesterday simultaneously in London by John Edmonds, leader of the GMB and in

Hanover by Hubertus Schmoldt, president of IG Chemie-Papier-Keramik The accord means that British workers employed in the process industry in Germany

will have the protection of IG Chemie and vice-versa. Mr Edmonds said that he would not rule out a "con-federal" relationship with the German union with the doors open for the creation of a single group to represent employees throughout the sector in



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Peak practice: Graham Austick in action in Greenland above Sermilik fjord. He hopes to become the first person to ski

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Two newly privatised rail firms will cut more than 1,000 jobs in the North-west, according to leaked documents.

Great Western Holdings, the new owners of Regional Railways North West, which runs trains on more than 1,100 miles of track, plan to cut 800 jobs, and the Liverpool-based bus company MTL, owners of Merseyrail Electrics, will cut 355

posts, according to the pressure group Save Our Railways. The group said it had ob-tained leaked documents giving details of the cuts, following a claim last week that MTL planned to lose 1,200 staff at Regional Railways North East within two years.

Staff were caught unawares A Regional Railways North West spokesman said: "We know nothing about any job cuts. Indeed, Great Western Holdings have increased job levels on their Great Western

there might be job losses at the train companies it had taken over. "No specific figure has been discussed," said a

spokesman. Save Our Railway's national secretary, Keith Bill, said: "The truth about rail privatisation is now coming out. Thousands of staff will go, inevitably leading to a worse service for passengers."

The pressure group is keen to highlight the need for railway firms to cut spending. Most private companies bid aggressively for train firms and many have to cut costs while rapidly increasing the number of passengers carried.

Save Our Railways calculate that under British Rail the train companies employed more than 48,000 people. A 25 per cent cut in staff levels would mean more than 12,000 jobs will go.

Cost cutting has already affected passenger services. Last month, South West Trains, which is run by Stagecoach, the bus and rail giant, was forced to cancel peak-time services after staff MTL said that it had not reductions left the compararuled out the possibility that short of experienced drivers. reductions left the company

### DAILY POEM

Supplication

By AC Jacobs

Lord, from this city I was born in l cry unto you whom I do not believe in: (Spinoza and Freud among others saw to that)
Show me in this place in which I started Where I have gone wrong.

Descend neither in Kirk nor synagogue Not university not pub.

But on a handy summit like Ben Lomond Make me a new Sinai, and please God Can we have less of the thou-shalt-not?

AC Jacobs, who died in 1994, was born in Scotland, lived for a time in Jerusalem and Madrid, and was a distinguished translator of modern Hebrew verse as well a poet in his own right. His Collected Poems and Selected Translations (Menard Press/ Hearing Eye) have been shortlisted in the poetry section of the Jewish Quarterly Literary Prizes, to be awarded during Jewish Book Week on 13 March. The book, which includes critical essays on Jacobs's work, costs £13.99 from The Menard Press, 8 The Oaks, Woodside Avenue, London N12 8AR.



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ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOANS SECURED ON IT.

# Battle lines drawn over nuclear waste train

Imre Karacs Dannenberg, Germany

Death in the shape of a 500-yard Dannenberg last night, bringing destruction to this peaceful north German town,

"We shall not be moved" sang thousands of protesters occupying the road which links the end of the railway line to the nuclear storage site of Gorleben.

For nearly a week environ-mentalists had been playing cat and mouse with police. creeting dummy barricades at one place, before vanishing into the forests only to appear at another crossroad.

The train's meandering course from southern Germany to the moorlands along the Elbe had been shadowed by

Protesters clashed with police at several points along the carriers (APCs) forcing their

taging railway lines and charg-ing at the troops in battle formations.

The authorities were taking no chances. In a 40-mile radius around Dannenberg, the state was out in force. Police buses lurked in country lanes, helicopters hovered overhead and motorists were confronted with an unexpected traffic hazard: convoys of armoured personnel

dently oblivious to the give-way

The railway station at Danneaberg was ringed by police and border guards - some of the 30,000 hired as nuclear guards for the week. The resolve of the police had to be stiffened by the despatch of thousands of fellow officers from the east, perhaps considered to be better versed than their western colleagues in the art of wielding a truncheon.

The toughest units were charged with defending the railway station from hard-core militants. The two sides faced off against one another across the tracks. The police in riot gear shouted from behind a line of APCs while the anti-nuclear activists hid among their bat-

The law enforcers had slept in hotels, schools and gyms requisitioned by the authorities. The protesters bad spent But the battle was not entirely uneven - even if the activists were outnumbered three to

Local farmers joined the protest by blocking roads with their tractors, and the regional fire brigades refused to supply the water cannons with their ammunition.

The protesters knew the terrain better than their "foreign" opponents, and many had taken the precaution to bring crash helmets to the encounter.

The conflict, they hope, will strangle the nuclear industry by closing the last outlet for its foul end product, which will remain lethal for centuries

Apart from the escalating price of guarding the annual train journey, the social cost of nuclear power is also beginning

to appear too high. The issue has divided Ger-

mans along regional lines, pitting the prosperous South against the poorer North. The battle of Gorieben is also turning into a left versus right conflict, with a measurable electoral form.

"This shipment must be the last," declared Gerhard Glo-gowski, the Social Democrat In-terior Minister of Lower Saxony - the Land now notorious for a blot on its map called

# Peter the Great gets his last revenge on the city he loathed

Moscow so

a new

capital in St

Petersburg 9

There is one good thing, and only one good thing, to be said for visiting the landlords to haggle over a bill. They are based in an old mansion on the north bank of the Moscow river, overlooking an arc of water which holds much of the city's history within its

You can see the Kremlin, the Red October chocolate factory, the House on the Embankment (home of many of victims of the Terror), and the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour (now being rebuilt after Stalin razed it). The eve travels serenely across Time. Un-

til it alights on the abomination. As eyesores go, this new addition to the Moscow skyline ranks alongside the

Russian friend recently rode past it in a bus. So struck were the passengers by the sight of this ... this thing, that the en-tire bus burst out laugh-ing. "We just couldn't believe what we were

looking at." It is not just that it is almost 200ft high, tall enough to justify an aircraft warning light, and depicts a muscle-bound man, eves boggling with enthusiasm. standing astride the deck of a 17th century galleon. The other reason Mus-

covites burst into angry and astonished sents Peter the Great.

Why, they legitimately ask, is an enormous statue being erected in Moscow to a tsar who disliked the place so much that he built a new capital in St Petersburg? More importantly, why rumoured \$20m (£12.5m) on it, at a time when the economy is in ruins? Some of the funds came from the Russ-cranking them out ever since. ian navy, the same navy that is rusting at its moorings while unpaid sailors fight off starvation.

ular and ambitious politician, who is showing all the symptoms of a man ey-Great affair is a blemish on his record.

It is hardly surprising, then, that he is distancing himself from the project. According to press reports, he now says that when the plans were put to him, he thought it was not 60 metres but seven metres high. He believed the mon-ument, which marks the 300th anniversary of the fleet, was to have Elephant and Castle in London, A been modest structure, a blip rather than

a blot on the landscape. Exactly how the mayor was so badly mistak-**5** Peter the en is a mystery the is said to blame a former Great disliked city architect). Certainly, the size of the monument has been known in the corridors of powmuch that he er for months. built himself

Last September I went to a press conference by the city's chief architect, who described both its dimensions and contents. By then, work had begun, although few of Moscow's 10 million residents had been told

about the plan, and none had been givgiggles – and, remember, Russian is not—en the chance to object. When we a country which takes laughter light- asked officials why it was approved by ly – is because that same man repre- a committee, without public consultation, we were given a brief and alarming reply: We don't discuss such projects with the public.

There is also a sub-plot to this affair, which has deepened emotions. The statue is the work of Zurab Tsereteli. are the authorities willing to spend a a Georgian sculptor who earned a fortune feeding the appetite for monoliths during Soviet times, and has gone on

Until now Mr Luzhkov has been his number one fan. But it is rapidly becoming apparent that his voters do not The answer, at least if you believe share his enthusiasm. Some have bethe city's mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, is that come so weary of Tsereteli works there was, literally, a monumental cock- cropping up around the capital that they up. Mr Luzhkov, 60, is a highly pop- have organised a protest campaign. It relocated a Tsereteli sculpture called



Mighty blunder: While sailors starve, \$20m is spent on a statue of Peter the Great Photograph: Edward Opp

has a site on the Internet where you can view a picture of the Peter the Great structure, and sign a petition.

Although the monument, which stands on a plinth in the Moscow River, is almost completed, such acts of resistance may not be too late. Last year the city bowed to public pressure and

The Tragedy of the Peoples in Moscow's knows. Mr Luzhkov has set up a com-Victory Park, which commemorates the Second World War. Its theme - expressed by a line of starving, naked peo-ple – was deemed out of keeping with the mood of happy patriotism that should fill every Russian breast on vis-

iting the park. Will Peter suffer the same fate? Who mittee to decide what to do with him. The only positive aspect of this fiasco is the faint chance that next time the authorities will consult the public before arrogantly erecting monstrosities in their midst.

Elizabeth Nash

majority it craved.

Spain's conservative govern-

ment yesterday celebrated the anniversary of what it calls "the

triumph", although the Popular

Party's election victory a year

ago fell short of the absolute

Forced into an alliance with

Catalan nationalists, Jose Maria

Aznar's government has none

the less been a modest success.

particularly over its key objec-

tive: preparing the Spanish

Phil Reeves

# significant shorts

### Nato prepares pact to reassure Ukraine

Nato is aiming to conclude a separate agreement with Ukraine, for endorsement at its Madrid summit, setting out relations between an enlarged alliance and the former Soviet republic, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday. The mooted pact - part of a tapestry of sand yesterday. The mooted peer peer so which will not be in the first group of new Nato members in 1999 – is further evidence of how the negotiating emphasis is already shifting from expansion itself to its consequences

for countries that will be excluded. Separately, the alliance is seeking a beefed-up Atlantic Partnership Council to replace the Partnership for Peace initiative. This is designed to meet concerns of the three Baltic nations, which like Ukraine fear they will be left in a no-man's-land between an aggressive Russia and a Nato extended - in all probability - to the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. Rupert Comwell - Washington Poland and Hungary.

### Iran quake death toll tops 900

The death toll from an earthquake in north-west Iran rose to 965 as rescue workers searched the mountainous region to assess damage from a second quake to hit the area in two days. The Interior Ministry's natural disasters headquarters reported 965 confirmed dead and more than 2,600 injured, the official Iranian news agency Irna reported from Ardabil, capital of the stricken province bordering Azerbaijan.

### Protest at Renault job losses

Renault workers and their supporters took to the streets of Brussels to protest against the French car-maker's decision to close a factory employing 3,100 people near the Belgian capital.

Meanwhile, officials said the Belgian government may soon take Renault to court for breaking labour laws with Thursday's sudden announcement that the factory at Vilvoorde will close in July.

### Tung's popularity increases

The popularity of Tung Chee-Hwa, Hong Kong's chief executive-designate, has increased since the beginning of the year, according to a survey commissioned by the South China Morning Post. Nearly 50 per cent (48.1) of respondents based in the colony thought Mr Tung's popularity was on the rise, compared with 24.4 per cent who said it had declined since the beginning of the year.

Mr Time's increased popularity was ascribed to his Mr Tung's increased popularity was ascribed to his

### "good relations with China". Jojo Moyes - Hong Kong Fujimori in talks with Castro

appeal within the media, his perceived integrity and his

President Alberto Fujimori of Peru flew to Cuba for talks with President Fidel Castro about asylum for the left-wing Tupac Amaru rebels who have held 72 hostages in Lima since December.

AP - Havana

### Bomb attack in Sri Lanka

A bomb exploded near a house in central Sri Lanka where President Chandrika Kumaratunga was visiting yesterday. She was not injured. Police said the bomb exploded prematurely, killing the man carrying it. Another person was injured. The bomb exploded at Nuwara Eliya, a resort town 100kms east of the capital, Colombo. AP - Colombo

# Rifkind brings Paris students the gospel of Euro-scepticism

John Lichfield

The campaign by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, to bring a mildly Euro-sceptic gospel to ordinary Europeans swept in and out of Paris vesterday. After a successful trip to Stockholm, and a difficult trip to Bonn, his bandwagon was politely received in France.

The French Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, belatedly discovered he had two other engagements, but no one wanted to make too much of that. In any case, Mr Rifkind's mission is precisely NOT to talk to governments but to talk to people: to explain that Britain is not the anti-European ogre imagined

on the Continent; and to ask the more and more co-operation. people of Europe whether they really understand, and approve. of the federalising European and-answer session with stupolicies espoused in their name. He was given a reasonable

hearing but two questions stood out: why had he waited until so late in the European argument; and why had he waited until most intelligent French people had discounted his government's chances of shaping that debate for much longer."

Mr Rifkind gave a policy speech last night to the principal French foreign-affairs thinktank, the Institut Français de Relations Internationales, in which he said Britain was against unthinking European

The symbolic centrepiece of the visit, however, was a questiondents at the Institut d'Etudes Politique, or Science-Po, the premier French college of political science.

Mr Rifkind put on a good show but several questioners could not resist teasing him. What would Britain's policy on Europe be in, say, three months? He took it all in good part and like a good politician, repeated his core message in answer to every question.

The core message was this: Europe is not America; the US has a single national identity, language and culture which "integration" but favoured can sustain single, federal in-

tures and identities. We want to keep it that way. You cannot have cultural identity without self-government. Britain does not want to roll back the supranational institutions and policies which exist in Europe.

But it does question whether other EU governments and peoples have thought through the federalising policies now on the table. If economic policy, immigration policy, justice policy are surrendered to Brussels. what will be left to national governments, which remain the only ones directly accountable to the people?

and not often directly chal-

stitutions: Europe does not. lenged. A sprinkling of British and German students in the audience asked the most aggressive questions. Was the EU shambles in Bosnia not an example of the price Europe was paying for not having a more federal foreign policy, one

British student asked. Several students, questioned afterwards, found the exercise refreshing. "He was very clear and quite persuasive," said David Michel, a third-year student. "I had not considered enough before this question of which policies should be European and which not." Was he pro-European? "Yes, that is, until I spent some time at the European Parliament Now I'm

economy for European monemore pragmatic. tary union. The Catalans, sometimes tagged the "Germans of Spain" Two-centre chef loses star billing for their supposed dourness and efficiency, could hardly have been better partners for

> The drive towards monetary union had been passionately pursued by the Socialists under Felipe Gonzalez, and if Spain's criteria for membership are shaping up, much is due to Mr Aznar's predecessors. But as the 1999 deadline draws closer, it is understandable that Mr Aznar's government should claim

all the credit.
Should Spain make it into the
Maastricht corral, he may expect
a conclusive electoral "triumph" next time round. Public opinion polls for the first time are putting Mr Aznar's govern-ment a whisker ahead of the (http://www.michelin-travel.com). | Socialist opposition.



Aznar claims credit

for whipping Spain

into shape for EMU

Spain's big companies think the economy is on course, according to an investigation by Coopers and Lybrand for Sunday's El Pais, a newspaper not given to praising the ruling party's achievements

More than 240 companies in Madrid. Catalonia and the Basque country are unanimous in their support for monetary union, and urgently require the government to reform the labour market, reduce public spending and simplify tax.

But unemployment remains at more than 21 per cent, twice the European average, and new jobs are mainly on short-term ("junk") contracts. Protracted negotiations between employers and unions over labour reform, in which the unions detect a "sackers' charter", are likely

The Catalan leader, Jordi Pujol, offered at the weekend to mediate. The Labour minister, Javier Arenas, declined the offer, saying he preferred the social partners to settle without government involvement.

The dispute is over the employers' desire to hire and fire without restraint, and the unions' wish to protect workers' rights and transmute casual employment of youngsters into some form of apprenticeship. No one has a solution to Spain's unemployment rate, but. since it is not a criterion for mon-

etary union, the government is under no pressure to take a more hands on approach.
On the Maastricht criteria however - the deficit, the debt, interest rates, inflation and the peseta - the government is clucking like a hen, tweaking here, hacking or snipping there, and exhorting further sacrifice.

The figures, meanwhile, are creeping into line. For 14 years, Spaniards had in Mr Gonzalez a prime minister who spoke like a human being, even though they didn't

always believe him For the last year they have sat bemused before Mr Aznar and his ministers, who speak like robots and harry them with incomprehensible jargon. But if Spaniards sense things are going well, they will give him the benefit of the doubt. And Mr to hit a crunch point this week. Aznar knows it.



of French haute cuisine

## John Lichfield

His food may be superlative, but hubris has a habit of leaving a sour taste in the mouth. Put another way, no one takes the Michelin Guide for granted.

Reading between the lines. and the crossed torks and knives, this was the message of the 1997 edition of the gastronomic bible published yesterday. To the surprise of some, the guide de- from Monaco. nied an almost unheard of six stars to Alain Ducasse, the acknowledged superstar of French

Mr Ducusse had been ex-

pected by many food critics to retain the three stars he had earned for his Louis XV restaurant in Monaco and to win another three for his new 1,500 francs-a-head (£170) restaurant in Paris. The Michelin Guide, declining as ever to ex-plain or justify its decisions, gave him three for Paris (the only new three-star restaurant of the year) but removed one star

A press release reminded chefs that they were "not the owners of their stars, even if they were double or triple". This was

best chef of his generation. The guide was, in effect, saving: "We don't believe you can cook in two kitchens 500 miles apart." Apart from a brief period in the 1930s, no chef has ever pos-sessed six Michelin stars: Mr Ducasse is the only chef in the world to have five.

This was small compensation for Mr Ducasse, a man with a profile in France equivalent to that of a film star or racing driver. He complained yesterday that Michelin's decision was a "total injustice", not just to him, but to his team at the Louis XV

down for a man accepted as the which had, he said, maintained exactly the same standards as The doyen of French food critics, Gilles Pudlowski, had forecast, however, that the Michelin

Guide would not allow him to get

away with it. "His Dr Jekyll and Mr Ducasse act does not fool mc." he wrote. "He can't be a genius in two places at once." In the 1997 guide, France has 18 three-star restaurants, 74 with two stars and 423 with one star - a slight reduction on 1996, For the first time, the Guide is

on the World Wide Web

حكذا من الأصل

# Oklahoma bombing trial compromised

Tim Comwell Los Angeles .

1

The Dallas Morning News yesterday undertook not to publish further excerpts from notes of a meeting between Timothy McVeigh, accused of planting the Oklahoma City bomb in 1995, and his defence team.

But the newspaper stuck to its story, published one month before Mr McVeigh's trial, that he had made a detailed confession. In the court in Denver, Colorado, where Mr McVeigh faces the death penalty for the killing of 168 people in the bombing, lawyers for the Texas paper filed a statement saying it was sensitive to his "fair trial rights", and would publish no more of the leaked material.

Mr McVeigh's attorney, Stephen Jones, yesterday denounced the newspaper for printing an irresponsible story based on stolen documents which prejudiced the rights of both his client and the bombing victims. It was one of the "darkest days" for American journalism and the criminal justice system, he said.

He accused a reporter of rifling electronically through thousands of documents including Federal Bureau of Investigation interviews and sensitive defence conversations with former Central Intelligence Agency officers, foreign governments, and representatives of revolutionary armed groups around the world, in-cluding the provisional IRA, Mr Jones said he did not know how the defence would respond, but legal experts agreed that the damage was already done.

Published accounts of conversations between a lawyer and his accused client "undermines the whole purpose of having a trial", Christopher Mueller, a University of Colorado law professor, said. The notes taken by an unnamed "de-fence staffer" from interviews with Mr McVeigh in the six months after the bombing on 19

April 1995. Mr McVeigh insisted that he alone drove the rented truck laden with explosives to the front of the building, it report-ed. He said he bought five tons of ammonium nitrate fertiliser for the homemade bomb and sold stolen firearms to pay for it, a confession which closely matches the government case against him. Perhaps most



McVelgh: Newspaper printed leaked conversations

wrote of asking Mr McVeigh, a former soldier with far-right political beliefs, why he did not bomb the United States government building at night, to lessen casualties

"Mr McVeigh looked directy into my eyes and told me: That would not have gotten the point across to the govern-ment. We needed a body count to make our point." Most experts expected the trial to go abead, even as they agreed that the chances of a fair trial had been severely compromised. "Move the trial? Where?" Dullas Morning News published asked former Colorado judge a story last weekend based on Jim Carrigan. "Maybe Tahiri.

You'd have to find someone living under a rock who doesn't know anything about this case."

Even by the free-for-all standards of US court reporting, the News' story pushed things to the limit, it appeared just as potential jurors in Colorado -where the case was moved in an attempt to find a more impartial jury - were returning questionnaires to the judge.

Before the criminal trial of OJ Simpson in Los Angeles. many newspapers reported an overheard conversation in a prison visiting room, in which Mr Simpson allegedly shouted to a friend that "I killed the bitch." In the gruesome saga of the killing of six-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey, a tabloid newspaper recently published crime-scene photographs of her body. But the publication of privileged lawyer-client conversations, with virtually no chance of their ever reaching the jury, in a capital case, appears unprecedented. "I don't think we should have a system that allows a newspaper to pub-lish such material," Professor Mueller said. "This is not serving the public interest." It is virtually impossible in the

US, barring an immediate risk to national security, to obtain a "prior restraint" injunction to stop a newspaper printing. In any case, shortly after it contacted Mr Jones for comment, the News published its scoop electronically on the Internet, several hours before it went to

Mr McVeigh has pleaded not guilty, along with his alleged co-conspirator James Nichols, who is to be tried separately. Even in public interviews arranged by his defence, however, he has not directly denied the bombing. "The only way we can really answer that is by saying we are going to plead not guilty," he said in July 1995, after Newsweek magazine reporters had asked him "Did



Rescue teams working among the wreckage of the passenger express in Punjab yesterday. With more than 50 of the injured in a critical

# Frain crash kills 126 in Pakistan

Agencies

Rescue workers used blowtorches to cut through twisted wreckage trying to rescue trapped passengers from an express that jumped its tracks in eastern Punjab yesterday. killing at least 126 people and injuring another 175 in Pakstan's worst train crash for

المكذا من الأصل

The brakes apparently failed when the driver tried to stop to make way for a second passendiverted on to a dead-end track. where it slammed into a pile of

The first five coaches overturned, some rolling on top of others making it difficult for rescue workers to reach those trapped inside. The 17-car train, carrying 1,500 people, was en route from Peshawar in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier province to southern Karachi on

ger train that was leaving the Arabian Sea. Most of the Khanewal, 250 miles southeast of Islamabad. The train was when the accident occurred.

It's a major accident in which Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

> was flown by helicopter to the scene of the accident. He visited the hospital in Khanewal where hundreds of people had gathered to donate blood. He ordered an inquiry into the disaster, telling Khanewal's deputy commissioner to prepare an initial report within 24 hours

Shahbaz Sharif, chief minister of Punjab, also visiting vic-

In Peshawar, the frontier provincial capital, hundreds of said: "This is a horrific accident. miles north of the accident, fran-126 people have been killed." tic relatives and friends were People from Khanewal were seeking information about the first to arrive on the scene. those believed to be on the train.

They pulled bodies from the Pakistan's train system is antiquated. In the past decade overturned coaches and covered the dead in white shrouds. there have been dozens of ac-Many of the more seriously cidents which have killed near-2,000 people. The most about 24 miles away. Hospital serious occurred in 1989 when officials said that as many as 50 two passenger trains collided in the southern Sind province. killing 850 people.

EU to cut

global

warming

gases by

a tenth

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

The European Union yesterday

set an ambitious target for cut-

ting emissions of "greenhouse

gases", in the hope this will gal-

vanise the rest of the industri-

## Araiat asks US to block **Jewish** settlement

Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, yesterday asked Presi-dent Bill Clinton in Washington to stop the construction of a Jewish settlement in Jerusalem as Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem went on strike in protest. 🔄

Declaring that "not one single house should be added", Mr Arafat looked for support from Mr Clinton and Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, during his four-day visit to the US. He said part of Jerusalem was Arab, is Arab, will remain Arah and eventually will be-come capital of Palestine". In east Jerusalem shops were

closed and there was little traffic in West Bank cities under Palestinian control. Palestinian police stopped motorists and asked them to go home. There were no reports of clashes, mainly because Mr Arafat and his security services are determined to prevent a confrontation with Israel now.

While he is genuine in his dismay at Israel's move to tighten its grip on Jerusalem, Mr Arafat is also milking the decision to build a settlement for 26,000 Jews at Har Homa, called Jabal Abu Ghneim by Palestinians, for all the diplomatic advantage that he can.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Is-raeli Prime Minister, has lost much of the international credit he won after the partial Israeli withdrawal from Hebron because of the decision.

On a visit to a Palestinian district in Jerusalem yesterday Mr Netanyahu tried to reassure residents they would get better infrastructure. He said: "We are serious about it. It's not a ploy. We're not playing games. We think it is our responsibility to treat its [Jerusalem's] Arah and Jewish residents alike."

Meanwhile, Israeli officials revealed that Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, is pushing a plan to build 1,500 housing units for Jews and 3,000 hotel rooms which would link the Maaleh Adumim settlement with Jewish enclaves north of the city.

# Army protects Ataturk's secular ideal

**Islam:** Turkey and France both feel threatened by religious zeal

Christopher De Bellaigue Ankara

The coalition government of Necmettin Erbakan, Turkey's Is-lamist Prime Minister, is digesting the armed forces' most emphatic intervention in national politics since 1983, when Turkey's generals relinquished

power they seized in 1980.
Last Friday, the National Security Board - which contains senior military figures - issued a declaration which amounted to a call for a return to the secular orthodoxy promulgated by Turkey's founding father, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. While the Prime Minister - along

with other senior figures from the Turkish establishment - is

himself a member of the board, Turks suspect that the sentiments expressed in this declaration reflect less Mr Erbakan's views than those of the military. which has launched three coups The declaration, which fol-

lowed a nine-hour meeting. named neither individuals nor political parties, However there is little doubt that it was composed with Mr Erbakan and his Welfare Party in mind.

The Prime Minister angered the secular establishment when he tried to introduce measures which would make Turkey a more Islamic state. These initiatives - which included plans to allow female civil servants to wear Islamic headscarves at work - worried the military, which cites a constitutional obligation to uphold Ataturk's

secular legacy.
Mr Erbakan has said that the board's declaration addressed all of Turkey's political leaders. and he has begun a series of meetings with other party bosses. However, the Prime Minister's room for manoeuvre is limited by his government's parliamentary majority of just

ted support. For example, forcing a Eueight. Carrying out the military's

bakan is that cracking down on threats to secularism would also mean penalising funda-mentalists who provide Welfare with some of its most commit-

most part stricter enforcement

of existing legislation - might

mollify potential defectors with-

coalition partner.

in the True Path Party, Welfare's

The problem for Mr Er-

ropean-style dress code first introduced by the dapper Ataturk - a beardless devotee of plus-fours and brogues -

demands-which means for the would affect Mr Erbakan's more radical cadres who favour beard and garb of Iranian inspiration. The implementation of other demands, which include restrictions on religious education in private schools, would also alienate the party faithful.

For the moment, the Prime Minister has rejected calls to reintroduce a tough law - repealed in the 1980s - which bans rallying the people in the name of religion. Mr Erbakan is under no legal obligation to implement

recommendations. "In Turkey, governments are formed in Parliament, not in the National Security Council. Laws are made in Parliament. he told reporters yesterday at the parliament offices of his Welfare Party.

wounded were taken to Multan,

were in a critical condition and

the death toll could rise.

However, not so distant history suggests that it may be wise for him to listen. When the army last issued a comparable warning - in December 1979 - the government of the time took little notice. The following year the tanks rolled in.

Turkish stocks dived 5.58 per cent at the close of trading on the political uncertainty. "An easing in political tension is needed. Newspapers full of pictures of army generals negatively affect the market," said broker Mustafa Yilmaz.

summarily stopped and searched each day. Those without valid pa-

pers were detained. There were

dawn raids on housing estates in

which dozens were held. Many

were released without charge.

Many others, however, were

not so fortunate. No one has yet

been charged either with the

1995 bomb attacks or the attack

last December at Port Royale

The Muslim prisoners of

Fleury-Mérogis claim that

French justice works at differ-

ent speeds: "One for Corsicans

dialogue and tirmness (wheel-

ing and dealing); another for

Basques - political and judicial

barter with Spain (exchanges of

Basques for Islamists); a third

for Kurds - somewhere in be-

tween; and a fourth for Muslims

- persecution, hatred and

days or weeks later.

alised world into acting against the threat of man-made climate After a night and a day of talks in Brussels, environment ministers from the 15 member states pledged a 10 per cent cut in annual emissions of the three most important global warming pollutants between 2000 and

But they said the EU wants all industrialised nations, including the European bloc, to deliver a 15 per cent cut over this period. They will call for this larger cut in Bonn this week at international talks on combating climate change. "We are ready to deliver this deeper cut

if others are," said one official. The European ministers agreed on individual emission cuts for each of the 15 nations. When these individual targets are added up, they give a 10 per cent overall reduction.

The gases in question are car-bon dioixide (by far the most important), methane and nitrous oxide. The use of coal, oil and gas, the lifebloods of European industry, is the main source, with coment and nylon manufacture, garbage heaps and agriculture making a minor contribution.

Ministers were anxious to reach a joint EU agreement on cutting emissions in order to send a strong message to the international negotiations. These are paving the way to a climate summit in Japan at the end of

Under the EU agreement, the poorer Mediterranean countries like Greece and Portugal will be able to raise their emissions between 2000 and 2010 as they continue to industrialise.

Germany and Austria will cut theirs by 25 per cent. Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium will take a 10 per cent cut, while France and Finland will merely have to stabilise their annual emissions over the decade.

# French justice stops at the prison gates, say Arabs

**Mary Dejevsky** Paris

Ever since the Paris bombs in the summer of 1995, there has been tension between France and Britain over the activities of a number of North African Muslim activists living in Britain. The French authorities suspect that some Islamic fundamentalist groups are using London as a base not only for propaganda, but for terrorist attacks in France as well.

They cite the case of Rachid Ramda, an Algerian exile currently in prison in Britain, who is appealing against a court de-cision that he should be extradited to France. The French claim that he is an organiser and treasurer of the 1995 bombing campaign and resent what they see as British reluctance to hand him over.

Claims have come to light, however, that appear to east serious doubt on the quality of French justice as it applies to Muslims detained in connection with terrorist or extremist offences. An open letter from detainees held at the Fleury-Mérogis prison accuses the authorities of discrimination, severe maltreatment, religious persecution and psychological

pressure.
"We Muslim prisoners, la-belled Islamists," the handwritten document said, "have decided to break our silence and

cesses to which we have long been subjected."

There follow seven specific allegations. They include what is described as the "Machiavellian methods" of the police in man-ufacturing, planting or de-stroying evidence; physical maltreatment - including beatings of prisoners and sleep de-

6 Prisoners are strip-searched and are regularly roughed up 9

privation – and intimidation of detainees' families who are detained or called in for questioning without the statutory

Some police officers are accused of forcing Muslim prisoners to commit acts of "blasphemy", such as "stamping on the Koran", while others are said to have warned prisoners that they will be marked men after their release. "One officer told one of us: When you get out of prison you will be a dead

The majority of allegations 31 October) and said he found vestigations because there have North African appearance were repression without end."

bring to public notice ... the ex- concern the Police Judiciaire the main criminal investigation branch of the police - but oth-

Individual doctors are accused of issuing false medical reports to cover up the results of beatings, and journalists "with rare honourable exceptions' are accused of hushing up what is going on and broadcasting film of arrests that violates the confidentiality of legal investigations".

The prisoners also protest about the use of informants, confessions extracted under duress and complicity between certain lawyers and magistrates. They claim that electronic

tags are unlawfully attached to prisoners during transfer, that prisoners are subjected to repeated strip-searching and are regularly "roughed up and humiliated".

In an allegation that is par-ticularly pertinent to the Rachid Ramda case, they say that prisoners are held for very long periods "sometimes illegally" without charge, and that there are some who have spent more than a year in Fleury-Mérogis prison "after extradition from other European countries who

have still not been questioned". A spokesman for the Police Judiciaire, which is subordinate to the Interior Ministry. dismissed the allegations as as far as the police are con-'old" (the open letter is dated cerned, there have been no in-

Backlash: Turkish women protesting against the Islamist-led government Photograph: Reuters them "not very credible ... without much foundation".

The fact that they had not been reported in the French press, he suggested, showed that they were "generally not taken seriously". Specifically on the period of time prisoners are held without charge, another police source said this was due to the "particular nature" of the French justice system.

He said he was familiar with the letter and had seen earlier, more virulently worded protests as well. In all cases, he said, the allegations were too unspecific to warrant an inquiry. If a named individual had made a specific complaint, he said, this would have been investigated. but no such complaints had been received. In other words.

been no complaints. One of the charges in the prisoners' letter, however, is that the authorities try to prevent information about the plight of Muslim prisoners from coming

to light.
In France, where the interest of many civil liberties groups tends to stop at the prison gate and where anyone in prison (especially someone thought to have Islamic connections) is already guilty in the public mind by association, such an in-

formation gap can be sustained more easily than in the UK. Fears about the effect of the bombings on elementary civil liberties first arose after the introduction in Paris and other cities of the quasi-military state of alert, Vigipirate, in the sum-mer of 1995.

Hundreds of young men of





**Max Sterne** 

# Sir Horace Cutler

Horace Cutler was the most formidable figure in the politics of London since Herbert Morrison, the pre-war leader of the old London County Council. But whereas Morrison went on to perform on the national stage - becoming Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary, as well as Deputy Leader of the Labour Party - Cutler's achievements were confined entirely to local affairs.

He did, however, make two stabs at a parliamentary career. In 1960 he had high hopes of securing the Conservative nomination for Harrow West, Harrow being his native turt: but he lost out to Jack Page. In the 1970 General Election he fought the Labour seat of Willesden East: he lost, and thereafter torswore national politics, devoting his abundant energy and acute mind instead to the affairs of London under of wartime tasks - minesweep-ing. When peacetime came his the aegis of the local government behemoth which was the Greater London Council, of which he was Leader from 1977

Horace Cutler was one of the seven children of an intermittently successful builder, who had begun his adult life as a carpenter. He was sent to Harrow Grammar School, where his somewhat flamboyant style of behaviour did not endear him to his teachers. But there was no doubt about the quickness of his intelligence, and he might well have gone to university, had not the untimely death of his father compelled him to plunge himself into the family business. as a young tiro.

He showed an immediate aptitude for two areas vital for that business. First, he had an eye for dereliet property with a development potential. Second, he had great natural gifts as a business administrator. Both served the company well and, although it suffered vicissitudes, as most companies of

its kind did, particularly in the straitened times after the Second World War, Cutler's story was one of success until, in 1985. an Inland Revenue Bill for what would today seem a trivial sum of just over £100,000 forced the company into bankruptcy. Cutler remained bitter about what he saw as an unnecessarily draconian bureaucratic attitude to a basically sound business.

And, indeed, his later successes in businesses as varied as coin-operated launderettes and store management in Milton Keynes suggested that his judgement was better than that of the taxmen. But, in the meantime, long before any of the really dramatic events of his business and political careers. Cutler had served in the RNVR on one of the most dangerous energies had to be, initially, devoted to the family business. But, in 1952, the direction of his life changed.

In that year he was elected a member of the Harrow borough council. He had been vestigially involved in Conservative polítics since 1932 (when he had joined the Junior Imperial League, from social rather than political motives), but he had come to see how important local government was to people in his line of work, and how vital, therefore, it was for people like himself to become involved in local electoral politics. His central interests were in housing and planning and, in addition to his responsibilities at Harrow, he became a member of the Middlesex County Council: he was also Mayor of

Harrow in 1959. In 1965 the Greater London Council was established, and the political glory days of Horace Cutler began. He quickly became Deputy Leader of the Op-position and then, in 1974, showed, however, that he



on a GLC fact-finding trip on the London Underground in May 1970. He reco

Leader. It became clear, almost immediately, that he would become a scourge of bureaucracy, though his ideas were not to come into full effect until the Conservatives gained control of the GLC in 1977.

The GLC at that time had strategic control of the affairs of 22 boroughs, and a bigger budget than that of many nation states. In the early days (though he was to become disillusioned later) Cutler relished the task of running this sprawling empire: his enemies (and there vere many, in both parties) thought he relished his job too much, and questions were from time to time raised about deals between his property companies

had never behaved improperly. He slashed the bureaucracy at County Hall, and virtually abolished the direct work scheme, by which the council employed directly labour for mainténance and development, rather than allowing private firms to tender for contracts. He sought privatisation before Mangaret Thatcher had ever used the word. If John Biffen is right (and I think he is) that the sale of the council houses has been one of the most important aspects of privatisation, then Horace Cutler was its first

But he did have his failures. and his attempt to bring private investment into London Transport was, perhaps, the most dramatic. He also had problems

with his party in Parliament: he never trusted the corporatist ideas of Edward Heath, and Heath did not trust him. However, when Margaret Thatcher was elected Leader of the party in 1979, Cutler found a soulmate. Their instincts about policy were much the same and, in particular, Cutler had become disillusioned about the possibility of efficiently running the GLC as a single unit; he was therefore receptive to her desire to abolish it, something which

came to pass in 1986.

The word "flamboyant" remains the right word to describe Cutter's later career. From his sharply cut suits through his colourful bow ties, to his elegant beard, he was always a figure who maintained his own dis-

well-wishers, performers and

the press. Delius sat through the

performances in a bath-chair in

When Delius died in 1934

Fenby returned to London,

to Boosey and Hawkes. He

continued his own career and

began to teach, becoming Mu-

sic Director at the North Rid-

ing College of Education in

1948, and eventually, in 1964,

Professor of Harmony at the

Royal Academy of Music,

where he remained until 1977.

But his professional life re-

mained inextricably involved

with the music and the posthu-

mous reputation of the dead

composer. In Delius As I Knew

Him (1936), he recounted the

story of their relationship. He

also contributed a Delius biog-

raphy to the "Great Com-posers" series, published in

1971, recorded the three violin

sonatas with Ralph Holmes

and Ychudi Menuhin, playing

the piano part himself, and

full view of the audience.

tinction. He loved and courted publicity, and rarely declined an opportunity to appear on a public platform, or on radio or television. But behind the dramatic image, and his various publicity stunts, Cutler was a dedicated, efficient, and very hard-working man.

Patrick Cosgrave Horace Walter Cutler, businessman and local politician: born London 28 July 1912; OBE 1963; Member for Harrow West. Greater London Council 1964-86, Leader of Opposition 1974-77, 1981-82, Leader 1977-81; Ki 1979; married (one son; marriage dissolved), second 1957 Christiane Muthesius (one son, three

daughters); died Gerrards Cross,

ducer. The result, A Song of

Summer (1968), was repeated-

ly shown in Britain and else-

where. Objections were made to Russell's expressionistic. often

shocking and savage, treatment

Delius film, which had a haunt-

ing gentle quality, the result of

Fenby's compassionate script.

musical committees, a founder of the Delius Society, of which

he became the president in

1964, and he served as a coun-

cil member of the Composers'

Guild of Great Britain, and its

chairman in 1968. He was a flu-

ent talker and lecturer, and as

a teacher was known for his

kindness and helpfulness to

students and young musicians.

A Festschrift Delius Companion

was published as a tribute to him

Eric William Fenby, musicologist

John Calder

on his 70th birthday.

Eric Fenby was active on

ut not to the

olin lessons, asked for boxing lessons instead, ultimately becoming the South African Universities welterweight champion. He was a keen runner and swimmer, winning the South African 100-yards sprint cham-

Max Sterne's vaccine against anthrax became history's most potent weapon against the dis-ease and turned what had been

a scourge of beast and man for

centuries into what is now an occasional problem.
Sterne was born in Trieste in

1905, of Austrian parents, who

took him at the age of four to South Africa, where he en-joyed childhood and adoles-

cence in the sun and surf of

Durban. As a child, at the time

of the First World War, with a

German-sounding surname, he felt the need of self-defence and,

when his father offered him vi-

pionship and, having taught himself the Australian Crawl from a book, went on to become the South African 100-yards freestyle champion. Even at 90 he was still swimming with perfect style. Sterne studied veterinary sci-

ence at the Transvaal University College (later Pretoria University), qualifying in 1928. He did not immediately go into vet-erinary service but took charge of a large cattle ranch in the Bel-gian Congo (now the troubled Zaire) which, from the anecdotes he recounted, constituted a very formative part of his life. Returning to South Africa after 18 months, he was appointed to a small laboratory near Pietermaritzburg, mainly testing field samples for East Coast Fever. His wife, Tikvah Alper, an eminent scientist in ber own right, recorded that "a morning of looking at smears was enough: afternoons were devoted to pursuits such as

She added, however, that it



was the feeling of being some-what unfulfilled by this existence himself studying growth of bacteria in liquid cultures using photocell turbidimetry (the turbidity of the culture as a measure of how well the organisms have grown) - an advanced approach at the time. They had known each other since he was 12 and she was nine, and were married in 1932; together they set up a small laboratory in the outhouse normally used as a servant's quarters.

In 1934, Sterne secured a position at the world famous Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute, north of Pretoria, with the principal duty of 1995; two sons); died Sarisbury preparing attenuated anthrax vaccine, using the method de- 1997.

Vicente Parra, actor, died Madrid 2 March, aged 66. Films include Donde vas Alfonso XXII? ("Where Are You Going. Alfonso XXII?", 1956), Varietes ("Varieties", 1970) and Tranvia à la Malvarrosa ("Tramway from Malvarrosa"), due to be

released next month. Stanislaw Shatalin, economist, veloped by Louis Pasteur in the 1880s. Valuable as Pasteur's vaccine had been, striking the correct balance between virulence and immunogenicity during its preparation was notoriously difficult and casu-alties among vaccinated animals were not unusual. In the face of some scepticism, Sterne began small experiments which led to seminal work isolating the "Sterne" strain (34F.) of the anthrax bacillus which became. and remains, the basis of most livestock anthrax vaccines in use

throughout the world today. Publications in the Onderstepoort Journal were not widely cited elsewhere in the world in those days, and his signal achievement did not earn him the recognition he deserved at the time. In fact, his strain, freely handed out on request in the spirit of generosity that has largely been lost in today's competitive atmosphere, became known and widely used as the "Weybridge strain", with few

knowing its history or origin.
Britam declared war on Germany in 1939, precisely one day before Sterne and his family were due to leave South Africa so that he could take up a scholarship to do his Diploma of Bacteriology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine. His leave of absence
was cancelled (although the
family possessions did make
the return trip to Southampton and back). Active service, consisting of mounting guard on the Union Buildings in Pretoria. only lasted six weeks before the government veterinary service reclaimed him. He finally went to the London School in 1946, returning to South Africa in 1948. His and his wife's political views, however, were at odds with the government of the day and they left the country in 1951, with Sterne taking up a position at the Wellcome Research Laboratories in Kent.

Sterne's expertise extended well beyond the confines of anthrax. He was, for example, also a research pioneer into types C and D botulism toxins. At Wellcome he continued to pursue his interests in anthrax and botulism and progressed into developing bacterial culture methods which remain today the basis of sophisticated technologies. Subsequent results of his work were a number of highly successful Wellcome vaccines, both veterinary and

Max Sterne was an outstanding scientist but, at the same time, a modest, indeed finally come, at least among his colleagues, and in 1985, at the age of 80, he went to Texas to received the Karl F. Mever Gold Cane award of the American Epidemiology Society, for services to animal medicine. Today, his work on anthrax would have undoubtedly led to his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society and probably a knighthood.

Peter Turnbull

Max Sterne, immunologist: born Trieste, Italy 1 June 1905; married 1932 Tikvah Alper (died Green, Hampshire 26 February

Gorbachev, of the "500-days plan", a radical strategy to transform the Soviet Union's centralised economy into a marketoriented system. The plan was scrapped under pressure from Communist hard-liners. Judi Bari, environmental

campaigner, died Willits, Califormia 2 March, aged 47. Leader died Moscow 3 March, aged 62 of Earth First!, a radical US Co-author in 1990, for Mikhail environmental group.

# **Eric Fenby**

Although he was a successful teacher and the composer of much music, mainly for chamber groups, Eric Fenby's name will always be associated with that of Frederick Delius.

approached Delius in 1928 at a time when the composer, after vears of illness, was almost entirely paralysed and blind; his mind was perfectly clear, but he was unable to sit at a piano or use a pen, and had been forced to give up composition. He was dependent on his wife for his most basic physical needs. Fenby, then 22, offered his services as amanuensis and to his surprise. but to his delight, the offer was accepted. The young Yorkshire musician journeyed to Delius's home at Grez-sur-Loing, near Fontainebleau, in October that year and remained with Delius until his death in 1934.

In spite of his German name and parentage. Delius was a fellow Yorkshireman, born in Bradford. It was the Yorkshire connection as much as his admiration for Delius's music that inspired Fenby to put himself totally at Delius's service. Fenby himself came from a warm. close and loving Scarborough family, and his parents and siblings were all musical. His sister Ann became a successful singer, first in concerts and later musical comedies. Eric studied music, sometimes formally



with private instruction, but to a great extent he was selftaught. He began early to compose, his first works being performed at local promenade concerts. He then cut short his own budding career to become the vehicle through which Delius was able once again to return to composition.

He was first asked to make a transcription for two pianos of the previously unperformed "A Poem of Life and Love" so that the composer could hear it played by Fenby and a visiting friend. This worked so well and

by then devised a method by which Delius could dictate notation to him, and in this way a new late period of his composition became possible. Most of the works thus produced were introduced to the public by Thomas Beecham, who had long championed Delius's music, and by the young Malcolm Sargent.

This, together with the poignant story of his illness, created a new interest in the music of a composer who, although widely respected abroad and by musicians at home, had never poser to communicate with

British public. As a result Delius was made a Companion of Honour in 1929 by George V. who was not known for his musicality, mainly as the result of Delius's new reputation and the sympathy of the public, who now saw him as a tragic genius. In the same year Beecham staged an important six-day festival in London devoted to Delius's music, in which Fenby took an active part. He travelled from Grez to London with the Deliuses and helped the com-

pleased Delius so much that Fen- had much success with the

through his advocacy was responsible, usually with the sistance and participation of Beecham, for a considerable increase in the number of available Delius recordings. film the life of Delius as one of his controversial television documentaries on composers. Fenby was asked to write the script

When Ken Russell decided to in collaboration with the pro-

composer and teacher, born Scarborough 22 April 1906; Music Adviser, Boosey and Hawkes 1936-39; Music Director, North Riding College of Education 1948-62; Artistic Director, Delius Centenary Festival 1962: OBE 1962: Professor of Harmony. Royal Academy of Music 1964-77; President, Delius Society

1964-97; married 1944 Rowena Marshall (one son, one daughter); died Scarborough 18 February 1997.

### Soldier's trial by court martial was unfair LAW REPORT

Findlay v United Kingdom: European Court of Human Rights; 25 February 1997

A soldier's trial by court martial under the procedure laid down in the Army Act 1955 did not constitute a "fair hearing" by "an independent and impartial tribunal" as required by article 6.1 of the European

Convention on Human Rights. The European Court of Human Rights ruled unanimously that there had been a violation of article 6 of the Convention in the trial by court martial of Alexander Findlay. Article 6 provides:

Affecte o provides.

In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a lair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law.

The applicant was born in 1961 and joined the British army in 1980. During the Falklands campaign in 1982 he witnessed the death and mutilation of several of his friends and was himself injured. He afterwards suffered posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but this was not diagnosed until 1990.

In July 1990, after a heavy drinking session, he held mem- guardsman, and dismissed

4 March 1997

threatening to kill himself and some of them. After firing two shots into a television set, he surrendered the gun and was arrested. Psychiatric reports indicated that the incident resulted from PTSD.

The "convening officer", a Major-General, took the decision to charge the applicant with six civilian and two military offences. The convening officer was responsible for appointing the prosecuting officer and members of the court martial. This consisted of a president who was on the convening officer's staff and four officers of ranks subordinate to that of the convening officer and serving in units commanded by him. A judge-advocate, a barrister whose role was to provide legal advice to the court martial,

was appointed by the Judge Advocate General's office. The applicant appeared before the court martial and pleaded guilty to seven of the charges. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, demoted in rank from sergeant to

bers of his unit at gunpoint, from the Army. No reasons were given for this decision. The applicant's petitions to the "confirming officer", who was the same person as the convening officer, and to the first

and second "reviewing authorities" for a reduction in sentence were rejected. The reviewing authorities were both non-legally qualified army of-ficers, advised by the Judge Advocate General's office. He was also refused leave to apply for judicial review.

At the time of the applicant's trial, court martial procedure was governed by the Army Act 1955. It has since been changed particularly in regard to the role of the convening of-ficer, by the Armed Forces Act 1996, which comes into force on 1 April 1997.

The European Court of Human Rights found that the convening officer played a central role in the applicant's prosecution and was closely linked to the prosecuting authorities in that, inter alia, he decided which charges should be brought, appointed the members of the court martial and the prosecuting and defending officers, and secured the attendance of witnesses at the hearing. All the members of the court martial were military personnel subordinate in rank to the convening officer:

Furthermore, he also acted as confirming officer. The decision of the court martial was not effective until ratified by him and he had power to vary the sentence imposed. This was contrary to the wellestablished principle that a tribunal should have the power to make a binding decision which could not be altered by a non-judicial authority.

In these circumstances, the applicant's doubts about the tribunal's independence and impartiality were objectively justified and there had been a violation of article 6.

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BULLETONER

Since the court could not speculate as to what the outcome of the court martial proceedings might have been had the violation of article 6 not occurred, it did not award any compensation. Nor could it quash his conviction. However. it awarded in full the applicant's legal costs of £23,956.25.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

### DEATHS

DEATHS

ALLEN: Bessie Agnes, died 26 February 1907, Catherine Lodge, Funeral, 11.30am, 7 March, at \$1 Stephen's Church, Bells Hill, Barnet, Undertaker, J. Clark & Son, Barnet, Donations to North London Hospice.

BRIDGEWATER: Thornton Howard (Tony), on 28 February, aged 88 years, after a long illness bravely borne, Much-loved father of Anthony and grandiather of Alexander, Virginia and Oliver, Funeral service at \$1 Anne's Church, Kew Green, on Monday 10 March, at 11.30am, followed by a private cremation, Family flowers only please, but any donations, at his request, to the RNL1, co Fredk W. Paine, Funeral Direction, 182 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4ES, DAVIES; David, PhD, of "Glenholme", North Street, Dudley, died peacefully at home in his 92nd year, on 1 March (5) David's Davy, Belwed hushand of the late Jean Davies, father of Gwyneth, Olwen and Beryl, and grandfather of Katherine, James, Jonathan, Timothy and Ruth, Funeral service to be held at United Reformed Church, Timity Road, Dudley, on Monday 10 March at 2pm, to be tollowed by eremation at Gornal Wood Crematorium, Flowers to the house, FRITZLAN: On 26 February 1997, peacefully at his home in Washington DC, David Fritzlan, US Foreign Service (retired), the deary kwed and loving husband, lather and grandiather of Marigold, Simon, Charles and Rachel, A service of thanksgiving will be beld in England later this year.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen holds an investiture at Buckinghant Palace. The Prince of Wales visits Sauth Arabia. The Princes Royal President, British Kiniting and Oshing Expert Council, visit, Riva Karimerm, Unidon Wil, and Sonon Carter, London Wil and as President, Animal Health Thus, attends a Lorporate Fellions Luncherm at Buckingham Palace Princess Alexandry intends a Thankspaine Service to mark the Contemary of the King- Fund, in Martin in the Fields Church, London WCJ.

### Births, Marriages & Deaths

GOMEZ: Cyril, aged 62, who resided at Sutton Court. Chiswick, tragically passed away at Charing Cross Hospital on 26 February 1997. Belowed father to Dominique. André. Laurenté. Zynie and Wayne, and grandfather to Leon, and former husband to Sandra. You will be forever in our hearts, darling Daddy, until the meet acun. Me. You will be forever in our hearts, dar-ling Daddy, until we meet again. We love you. Funeral Friday? March 1997, (Nam Mass, Our Lady of Grace and St. Edward, 247 High Read, Chiswick, W4, followed by interment at Mortlake Cemetery, Flowers to be sent to Potrick Ryan & Daughter, is South Ealing Road, Ealing, W5 4QA, 0181-567 1664.

0181-367 fep.).
HEIGHAM: Normal PhD (nee Furniss).
of Stoke Nowington and Torrevieja.
Spun: formerly of Batley. Yorkshire.
Octord and Islington: 21 February. on holidy of Aswan. in Upper Egypt. age
64. Funeral. Ham. Tuesday H. March
Details 0171-923 1833.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The independent, i Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Loudon E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT extra).

The Duckess of Gloucester, Patron Parkinson'-Distinct Success with the search of headquarters, London WCI, and attends a reception at Drap-ers Hall, London ECC, in and of Marriage Care

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mouths the Gueen's Life found at Horse Guines. Hast, ist Battalian The Royal Retiment of Wakemonts the Outen's Guard, at Bucklinghum Palace.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. C. Wolloshin and Miss M. B. M. Elwes The engagement is announced be-

tween Rupert, son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Wolloshin, of Datchet, Berkshire, and Magdalen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gervase Elwes, of Astley.

Birthdays Sir David Barnes, chief executive of-

ficer, Zeneca, 61: Mr Michael Bar-rett ("Shakin" Stevens"), singer, 49; Sir Alan Battersby, Professor Emer-itus of Organic Chemistry, Cam-bridge University, 72: Sir Arthur Bryan, former Lord-Lieutenant for Staffordshire, 74; Mr Kenny Dalelish, football manager, 46; Mr Graham Dowling, New Zealand cricketer, 60; Professor Hans Essenck, psycholo-gist, 81: Mr Harvey Goldsmith, pop-music presenter, 51: Mr Bernard Haitink, music director, Covent Gurden Opera House, 68; Mr John Humt, former Hendmaster, Roedean School, 05; Mr Francis King, author and drama critic, 74; Mr Raiph Kir-shbaum, cellist, 51; Mr Stuart Maw-9m. otolaryngologist, 79: Mr Patrick Moore, astronomer, 74: Miss Paula Prentiss, actress, 58: Mr Chris Rea. rock musician. 40: Mr Alan Sillitoe, playwright and novelist, 69: Mr Peer Skellem, composer and singer, 50; Sir Keith Stuart, chairman, Associated British Ports Holdings, 57.

Anniversaries

Births: Antonio Lucio Vivaldi, composer and violinist, 1678; Thomas Sturge Moore, poet and wood en-

graver, 1870. Deaths: Sir Thomas Malory, writer of Mone d'Arthur. 1470; Nikolai Vasilvevich Gogol, playwright and novelist, 1852; Anplaying and novels. It also sale tonin Artaud, actor, playwright and stage director. 1948. On this day: the first meeting of Congress was held in New York. 1789: the Royal National I should be projected in the constitution was found. tional Lifeboat Institution was founded. 1824; the Forth Bridge was officially opened, 1890; North Sea gas was first piped ashore near Durham. 1967. Today is the Feast Day of St Adrian and his Companions. St Casimir of Poland and St Peter of

Lectures National Gallery: Jacqueline Lewis, "Sculpture and Painting (i): Titian. Ponnait of a Lady", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Jan Russ-Munro, Furniture Design in the 18th Century (i)", 2.30pm British Museum: Virginia Hewitt. "In the Shadow of Gold: empire and the spread of paper money. 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Brian Louis Penree, "Dame Ethel Walker (1861-1951)", 1.10pm. RIBA Architecture Centre, London

WI: Ian Ritchie talks about the work of Ian Ritchie Architects. Exeter University: Professor Regenia Gagnier, "The Needs and Desires of the People", 1.10pm; Martin Jenkins. From the Page to the Microphone". 3pm. Gresham College, Burnard's Inn Hall.

London EC1: Professor Peter Heanessy, "Premiership (ii): the solo coalitionist, John Major 1990-", Ipm: Professor David Owen Norris, "What the Audience Wants; added value"

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# Yes, catch them young – as a first step

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n an ideal world all political state-ments about crime and punish-L ment, including Jack Straw's yesterday, should carry a health warning. As follows. Her Majesty's Home Secretary (and his Shadow) warn that the causes of crime are multiple, a com-pound of opportunity, attitude, demography, penal regime, detective capac-ity, background, upbringing, and the proximity of Panda cars. No single lever of public policy works; neither jail nor police numbers, nor even boom conditions and more jobs. Being tough on crime, and on the causes of crime, is meritorious, but the answers never come easy, and rarely cheap.

Still, Mr Straw is a politician, and must have his six points on youth crime, so that people can judge whether he means it. To his credit, there was at least some recognition of implied cost, and an acknowledgement that reform takes time. But it was not the six points that caught the headlines; after all, we have heard them before, and Mr Straw needs to make his point more forcefully than mere repetition of Labour's programme will allow. So he went for a fresh commitment that is sure to grab people's attention: reduction of the age of criminal responsibility. Unfortunately, the theme, though fascinating, is largely irrelevant to the main issue of reducing youth crime, and preventing young criminals from turning into lifelong reprobates.

Mr Straw promised to reverse the way that, at present, the prosecution in serious cases involving a child of more than 10 but less than 13 has to prove the child's capacity to distinguish right and wrong. His proposal is commonsensical, in that we all know most 10-year-olds are capable of knowing that stealing, assaulting, damaging and so on are wrong. The change also sits on all fours with Labour's revisionist stance on the moral responsibilities of schools, parents, and society generally. But this change is not going to increase the number of young offenders convicted; nor (much more important) will it help to prevent them offending again (and again, and again).

The facts of youth crime are worth rehearsing, if only to establish why Mr Straw is right to make a song and dance about the failures of policy in this area. The social facts also explain why he is on dangerous territory if he fails to distinguish the mass of petty offences and nuisances caused by young people which are - fatalistic though this sounds - a probably inevitable part of their adolescence, and the small number of serious persistent offenders. A quarter of all known offenders (in Britain) are under 18 - they account for some seven million recorded offences a year, a drop in the ocean of what the public recognises as crime. which itself is a mixture of illegal actions and merely offensive behav-



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-845 2435

iour. A large proportion of young offenders flit in and out of the youth justice system. By the time they reach adulthood most have got it out of their system. But a fraction become persistent troublemakers; they go on to form the hard core of virtually irredeemable adult offenders. The propensity of young people to offend has probably not grown in recent years, but the the core of persistent offenders may well have done, Jack Straw is right to focus on the process of cautioning and the need to mobilise resources to target the children who are in danger of reoffending.

Little of that is news. Youth crime worried Merlyn Rees, the last Labour Home Secretary, His successors, from Willie Whitelaw on, have experimented widely; they have generally failed to co-ordinate policies with their Cabinet colleagues responsible for social services budgets, local councils and employment. The result gives Mr Straw his opportunity to make political capital. And well he might. Tough Michael Howard has failed to increase the number of secure units for those children who do need to be locked up.

age than meets the eye. His Commun-ity Safety Order, unveiled last year, is a useful augmentation of the powers available to local authorities to deal with nuisance neighbours: there are. within most jurisdictions, a tiny number of dysfunctional families who for the community's sake may have to be harried and moved on. As for "better parenting", there is a danger that the thetoric will overwhelm social reality. Fining poor families or locking parents up is unlikely to do much for parenta! responsibility. Both Home Secretary and Shadow could usefully study the Scottish Children's Hearings System. wherein parents stand to be fined if they fail to attend. But the nature of the hearings in Scotland (informal and speedy and local) brings them within better reach of all but the most alienated parents.

About the proposed "root and branch" reform of the youth courts, Mr Straw has least to say. That is evidently because he has got a lot of thinking yet to do. Making it easier to label 10-yearolds as criminals does not quite fit with his wish to stop youth courts mimicking the adversarial nature of adult

Mr Straw has proved himself adep: playing the symbolic politics of crime, and over recent months has done his party no end of electoral favours. On the way he has come up Yet there is less to the Straw pack- with some sensible proposals. But and give that critic a kind notice.

crime in modern British society is not going to be solved by a mere appeal to Middle-England instincts. The people Mr Straw meets on the streets are impatient with crime. But wanting to help them - and win their votes should never blind him to the essentially long-haul, expensive and incremental character of the task.

### Critics on the sharp end

n the film Theatre of Blood. Vincent LPrice as an ageing thesp devised fiendish ways in which to get his revenge on the critics. It seems he missed the most devilish of all: persuade them to direct. Next month the theatre critics of several newspapers are daring to put their names and reputations to a set of productions. Admittedly they are at an off-off-West End venue; but you can bet that the real directors will be out in force, notebooks at the ready. Their ranks may include Michael Bogdanov, who a little while ago referred to one unnamed member of the critical fraternity (they are almost all men, too) as vicious, vituperative, vitriolic, objectionable, abusive, arrogant, excretory, disgruntled and cavilling. Perhaps he will really twist his knife in the wound

## • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

### **How Britain** can safeguard water supply

Sir. Nicholas Schoon, like so many water pundits, is missing the main point about Britain's water supplies ("Why we are too wet about water", 28 February). This is that we are not short of water in total, but that rain tends to fall unevenly in both time and space. If climate change happens, then most predictions are that the rainfall in Britain will stay about the same but that the irregularity will increase. We may get longer periods without useful rainfall, interspersed with very wet periods.

The common-sense answer is to se water storage, so that we can store surplus for times of scarcity. I and many other hydrogeologists argue that the best place to store this water is in the ground, but we run up against two

First, opposition from environmentalists with the erroneous but much-quoted statement (repeated by Schoon) that groundwater abstraction damages wetlands. In reality most changes to stream networks in recent years have been caused by the changing rainfall pattern or changes in land or river management. There are actually only a handful of substantiated cases caused by over-abstraction and these are being remedied. It does not seem to have dawned on many people that if the climate is changing, the river patterns will change in response.

Second, the fact that engineers like to build reservoirs in preference to sinking boreholes because reservours create more profits and prestige. There are some areas of the country where reservoirs are the only sensible approach to storage, but in general they should be used only where groundwater storage is not available.

Of course we should care for the environment and not waste water, and the industry could do much more to reduce leakage by the simple expedient of accepting responsibility for the service pipes on consumers' premises, just as gas suppliers do.

But metering may not give the benefits expected. World comparisons show that water consumption, whether metered or not, goes hand-in-hand with prosperity. More affluent societies use more water, and are prepared if need be to pay for it. It is worth remembering that petrol is metered and expensive, but this has not caused everyone to drive small, fuel-efficient cars. MICHAEL PRICE Senior Lecturer in Hydrogeology The University of Reading

### Sense in selling the Underground

Sir. The Rev Jeremy Craddock (letter, 3 March) may find the basis of the London Underground sale more comprehensible if he considers the idea of selling his family car to someone for £1,500 and then paying the purchaser £1,500 to make the car available, in good condition, for his family's use in perpetuity. Moreover, when the car is worn out the purchaser has to provide usage of another car at

Why should his family object, or indeed have a say in this? They would still have use of the car. which is all they do now, since it is owned by Mr Craddock. The



important issues are the price and the enforceability of future quality-of-service standards. Get those wrong and the principle is irrelevant GERÄLD DOREY Oxford

### Homes inspectors in cleft stick

Sir: Polly Toynbee is right to draw attention to the difficulties facing council inspectors who have to monitor the welfare of the elderly in residential homes and children in private nurseries ("An inspector calls on privatised care", 3 March). One fundamental cause of the tension between private owners and inspectors is the contradictory stance of the Department of Health. By statute, anyone is entitled to be registered as a proprietor unless it is shown that they or the premises are "unfit". This is usually interpreted by the courts as denoting total incompetence or lack of probity to

high degree.
However, the Secretary of State instructed local authorities in 1990 that one of the main purposes of inspection was to encourage providers to raise standards: "It should be seen as an integral part of the registration process and should be used to ensure high standards of service." Yet when inspection units tried to follow this advice the department issued a circular in 1993 complaining that the guidance had been applied over-strictly "and a number appear to have insisted on even higher standards without justification".

Proprietors and local authorities. let alone consumers, are entitled to have a clear statement from the

Department about where the balance lies. At the same time, thought could be given to the anomaly that private homes and nurseries are subject to regulation and standards higher than those required of council-run establishments. JOHN MITCHELL Family Law Chambers

Garden Court, Temple

London EC4

### Send paedophiles to island exile

Sir. No real attempt seems to have been made to resolve the conflict between minimising risks to children and the right of exoffenders to live in peace and freedom baving served their sentences ("Paedophile lists prompt mob attacks", 24 February)

The present trend of "outing" paedophiles gives any gane of vigilantes an excuse to attack those who are often weak and inadequate terrorising them into changing their identity and being lost to police or probation surveillance. There have also been cases of mistaken identity, where people with no known involvement with child abuse have been attacked.

A large proportion of paedophiles are unable to control their obsession and, despite treatment in prison, continue on release to insimuate themselves into situations where they can reoffend. In this they differ from burglars. fraudsters, drug-peddlers and

shoplifters only in the nature of

their offence. Could not the concept of internal exile be explored for convicted paedophiles considered unlikely to change their sexual preferences? An island or peninsula large enough to accommodate a self-supporting community could be set aside in which such people could be required to spend the rest of their lives, in return for shorter or suspended sentences.

They would have all the freedoms of open society except that they would be forbidden to return to any area inhabited by children under a determined age. Special security arrangements would be made to ensure that the exile was not broken.

I suspect that the cost of setting up such a system would be considerably less than that of imprisonment surveillance. reoffending and re-imprisonment. DAVID BURTON Telford, Shropshire The author was Head of Education at Wandsworth Prison, 1990-1996

### Fewer faxes now

Sir. It was good to learn that the Mailing Preference Service, which enables us to stop some of the junk mail that lands on our doormats, has been followed by the setting up of a Telephone Preference Service. I now wait hopefully for a Fax Preference Service. PHILIP BARRON Croydon, Surrey

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytone telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### Life in slow lane

Media biased in

Sir: Haven't Brian Mawhinney and

assuming Blair win", 3 March)? A

journalist of any description thrives

on news - on something changing -and after 18 years that includes a

Perhaps they ought to accuse

football journalists of being anti-Manchester United, but the

is made by things being different

and the underdog coming out on

heory breaks down concerns the

England cricket team. Though we

ournalists will still be itching for

Maybe, in his spare time after the

election, Dr Mawhinney could use

his talents to investigate this bias. KEITH ALBANS

Australia to thrash us again.

haven't won the Ashes in years, the

top. Sadly, the area where my

principle would be the same - news

favour of news

Charles Lewington missed the

point ("BBC under fire for

change of government.

Sir: I wonder if the writers of the two letters on motorway lane discipline (1 March) have understood the point of a threelane motorway. As I recall it, the original purpose was to enable two vehicles to overtake at the same time. Clinging relentlessly to the centre lane prevents this. It also contravenes the Highway

Code, which instructs drivers to stay in the nearside lane except

Sheffield

# Sir: The Social Affairs Unit has

come to the conclusion that the Welsh language should be allowed to die (report, 28 February). This is of course a logical conclusion, as being able to speak one of the oldest and richest languages of Eu-rope could not possibly be of

Treason against

Welsh speakers

benefit to anyone.
It is also a waste of time learning a language which has a living literature reaching back to the seventh century, and why on earth should anyone want to learn a language which finds expression today in its own television channel and its own popular music culture, and which, in the National Eisteddfod, boasts the largest

cultural festival in Europe?

A language which is still living and vibrant and in everyday use in many parts of Wales; a language which has a growing number of speakers and a growing number of parents seeking Welsh-medium education for their children. hecause, among other reasons, of its proven track record in achieving high academic standards, should obviously be "allowed to die" --

because we can all speak English! I wonder if the Social Affairs Unit is aware that a similar conclusion was reached by the Education Report of 1847, known ever since in Wales as Brad v llyfrau gleision ("The treason of the blue books"). A hundred and fifty years on, despite being periodically undermined and even sometimes persecuted, the Welsh language is

still a living language. It is not learning Welsh that blights children's lives, but the blinkered views of those who would impoverish their education by making it conform to the dictates of English linguistic and cultural imperialism. PETER LTROW Farcham, Hampshire

Sir: My four eldest children attend Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin. a bilingual comprehensive school in Carmarthen. As with many other children in the school, their mother longue is English (their mother comes from Pinner in London). Last year, the school was the top state school in Wales in the Government's GCSE result tables.

I was therefore startled to read of a report by a Reading University sociology professor claiming that Welsh children's prospects are being blighted by misguided attempts to preserve the Welsh language. My children's prospects have been enhanced by their

bilingual education. They are also fortunate enough to have been brought up in a bilingual community, where the existence of two languages side by side enriches all our lives. The report states that "all Welsh speakers also speak English". Most first-language English speakers learned French at school. That does not mean they want (or are able) to speak it all the time in preference to their mother tongue. Dr PATRICK THOMAS Brechja. Dyfed

### Brotherly love

Sir: You make me sound like the Duchess of York ("Media Families", 3 March). I never said my brother Christopher was my best friend, and I'm not surprised that he was dumbfounded when you rang him up with this information. I did say he was my oldest friend, something rather different. PETER HITCHENS

when overtaking, and diminishes a motorway from three lanes to two.

Unless such drivers are actually overtaking, the area of nearside lane beside them (frequently long stretches of it) is rendered legally

off-limits, unusable and empty.

also force the rest of us to cross

from the nearside to the offside

lane if we want to overtake them.

They have no mandate to control

the speed of other vehicles, and offer

than a contribution to safe motoring.

a provocation to road rage rather

Still surviving

Sir. Louise Jury ("Gold casts

March) writes that "the last

shadow on Swiss war neutrality", 1

Holocaust survivors are dying". I

that rumours of our imminent

demise are greatly evaggerated.

Many of us child survivors of the

Holocaust - of the camps, hidden

children and refugees - are still in

our fifties and sixties.

JACK SANTCROSS

Wembley Park, Middlesex

should like to reassure your readers,

HELEN WIDGERY

London SW4

creating unnecessary congestion in

the centre and offside lanes. They

Pooper pun

Sir: Apropos John Lichfield's report Pavement artists have the drop on the City of Light (1 March), the slang equivalent of caninetic, the term for the machines clearing Parisian pavements of dog facces. It is chiraclette - a charming parenemasia on Chirac, former mayor of Paris, and chie + nuclette: 'shit-scraper".

# Mightier than the sword

e is talking from the safety of his quiet. beautiful Venice home described as a palazzo by his ideological archopponent Michael Heseltine and by the man himself as a "modest little house" on a "backwater at the Tower Hamlets end of the Grand Canal". Lord McAlpine. Margaret

Thatcher's most successful political fundraiser, complains that much of his explosive new book, to be published this month, doesn't even deal with politics at all. He writes about other areas of his life - as anthropologist, as the foremost patron of British sculpture in the 1960s and 1970s, as Australophile and expert on Aboriginal art, as benefactor of the Tate, as collector, connoisseur, writer, Garrick Club wit and

super-wealthy toff. But it's the politics that mat-ter this week and it's something John Major could do without Lord McAlpine idolised Margaret Thatcher and was party treasurer and one of her inner circle for 15 years. He has an eye for the wicked anecdote. whether it is Chris Patten greedily gobbling his oysters or eye after a brawl with a former boy-friend of the "extremely attractive" widow Olea Palizzi. or his own warning to John Major that John Gummer "was not the sort of person you would risk going for a walk with in St James's Park, let alone the jun-

It's a spectacular understatement to say he doesn't think much of Mr Major as a leader. servatism by joining the Refer- tains that he would be

He holds no government position or party office. He's no longer even a Tory. **But Lord** 

McAlpine's book is spreading fear in Westminster. By Donald

Macintyre

endum Party, his old friend Sir James' Goldsmith's great electoral adventure. His book would probably have caused the minimum of fuss if only the election had been called last autumn. As it is, every word of its newspaper serialisation is being lapped Thatcher enjoying the deliciously "Gilbertian" spectacle of the Tory Party - those who have Still in Charge. For he can say, lamenting the departure of his heroine, what others dare not: that "only a considerable defeat" will clear the heads of their party.

McAlpine believes that the Tories should be anti-single currency and in favour of renegotiating Britain's relationship with Europe. He argues that Major's leadership has dam-He has freed himself from any aged the party "beyond imagiobligations of loyalty to Con-nation". Nevertheless, he main"surprised" if the Conservative Party split in two after the elec-tion. "Great parties don't split," he says. The Conservatives, he insists, will heal in time (though he constantly proclaims "I'm not a member of the Conservative Party - I don't take the Conservative whip so it's not my problem.")

Noting that leadership campaigns are already under way, he says he finds none of the front-line challengers "very palatable." And speaking of some senior members of the Tory party, he is very rude indeed. Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, who he describes in his book as "having all the joy about him of an undertaker's mute" is definitely "not my sort of chap". He is "not excited" by either

John Redwood or Michael Howard, adding that he "would-n't have Michael Howard as leader". What about Stephen Dorrell, repositioning himself, with mixed results, on the right of the party over Europe? "He changes every five minutes. I'd like to hear Dorrell talking about the health service for a change. I think he's going to be immaterial. I don't think he's going to be in the race - he doesn't look up to it... not a safe pair of hands."

palazzo jibe - in a passage of his party conference speech last year savaging the Referendum Party - was "pretty ungenerous considering there have been a few occasions when I've helped Michael Heseltine". Lord McAlpine's wife, Romilly, helped to look after Heseltine in Venice after his heart attack.

"If the Conservative party is going to be against apparently wealthy people who have houses in Europe, then for God's sake... I mean why is it



Lord McAlpine: Believes that 'only a considerable defeat' will clear the heads of the Tory party Photograph: Rex Features'

that Tories who are hell-bent on taking us into Europe are so against people who actually live

Surprisingly, despite their differences on the kind of Europe they would like to see. McAlpine is rather nice about Ken Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He admired Thatcher for being a tough. combative politician and adds: I like Ken Clarke and that's a subject on which I could wax quite lyrically at the appropriate time. Ken Clarke has many of the qualities which I admire.

His book is full of mischievous portraits of key figures in the first two years of John Major's "Cabinet of Chums": like Norman Lamont, whose stubborn refusal to recognise the looming signs of recession was one of the main reasons his links with the Tory hierarchy were finally fractured. The recession, in stark contrast to Lamont himself, was anything but "short and shallow"

And was it true that cheers

had echoed from the election night party at his house in 1992 ask "why on earth" Thatcher when Chris Patten lost his seat at Bath? Well, says McAlpine, there were two parties going on. that it was a scheme to humili-

One was upstairs where Mrs Thatcher and a very select group of chums were watching the results. and another downstairs, where there was a much louder, larger

group. There may

have been cheers

from downstairs but there were certainly none from Mrs Thatcher. And what about him? "I don't recall, but I wasn't sad to see him go.

This brings us to Major himself. When Major used to hang about Chequers "pretending to be the curtains", as he witheringly puts it, McAlpine devised an explanation, he says, for all those people who would say to

him they'd just met Major and kept saying he would be her successor. "I used to tell people

ate Geoffrey Howe" deputy Minister). Prime 6 i ask you a He makes no bones question: has about being sus-John Major's picious of the wisdom tooth prob-lem which Major leadership contracted when been a the moment had triumph? 🤊 come for him to sign Thatcher's second ballot

> papers. And he adds: "I ask you a question: has his leadership been a triumph? I think it's self evident that the Conservative party has been shattered beyond imagination. It's not irreparable. Conserva-tives always heal but it will take

nomination

On the single currency, McAlpine is contemptuous of

the "wait and see" approach. He favours outright opposition. But a clear line in favour of

EMU even if it drove many from the party would at least mean "we would know where the hell we are all going". And he denies that Goldsmith's goal of a referendum vote in favour of a renegotiated relationship with Europe, rolling back the Maastricht Treaty, is hopelessly unrealistic or that the rest of the EU in those circumstances would simply "tell Britain to get stuffed".

"Our trade deficit with Europe is something like £90 billion over the last 10 years. Now if I had a customer who was taking that kind of stuff from me. I'd take quite an interest in what he was saying. The last thing I would do is ban him from the shop. I don't think I would say 'get stuffed'. I think a lot of other countries are waiting for a lead."

notice because he settled a public spending round as Treasury

Chief Secretary without recourse to the Star Chamber". "He's a very good negotiator but I think good negotia-tors don't make good prime ministers because being prime minister isn't about negotiation - it's about leadership."

This makes his assessment of Tony Blair all the more wounding. First he implies that it's too early to judge Blair, saying: "You can only really tell whether someone's a leader when they have to demonstrate it," but then he adds "in terms of sorting out the Labour Party. he has certainly demonstrated leadership."
What has made news, of

course, is the revelation that John Major got personally involved in asking Lord McAlpine's help to solicit a £500,000 donation from the Greek shipowner John Latsis. In fact, says McAlpine, he told the story to illustrate that he himself hadn't just been "a mal-content Thatcherite" and had been willing to help after Major came to power. News of the donation subsequently leaked. "It caused me a lot of aggravation at the time. The chap was furious and also I had a reputation for not landing people in

A HIST

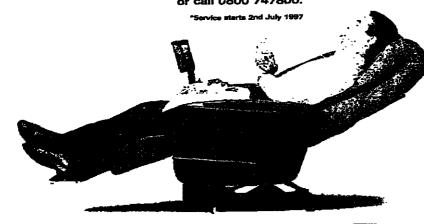
atsis aside, even the biggest donations had been in the £5,000 to £15,000 range, and those he believed should be secret. Even "if a rich man wanted to give you 50 grand, it was hard to criticise. I mean he clearly wasn't looking for oil concessions or something. But now it was different. There was talk of the Tories having a £40m war chest.
There had been one recently publicised donation of £5m.
If you ask me if I think that sums of £10,000 or £15,000 or £20,000 should be private, the answer's yes. If you ask me whether a sum of £5m should be private, the answer is definitely no.

So isn't it finally, just a case of bitterness, of not ever having forgiven the party for letting Thatcher go? Well, he says, he has always been a realist, and all his criticisms of what happened since then has been based on actual performance. I retired six months before she went I was very happy to be an outsider again. I was very happy to be away from politics... It was a great relief to get on with normal life. I was upset when Margaret Thatcher went. I was des-

olate but you get over things." Why had friends of hers such as him joined a rival party while she had stayed loyal, at least in public? Thatcher, he says, she had been a child of the Conservative Party. Her father had been a councillor, and she had come up through its ranks. Its activists had always helped her. For him, it hadn't been like that. He had been asked "out of the blue" personally by her to do a job, and he had done it, becoming a "significant fund raiser" and then he had left. So, was he really saying that unlike her he didn't really owe the Conservative Party anything? "I wouldn't say that because it's quite a Major had first come to rude thing to say." But then he adds: "When you boil it down. it's pretty near the truth."

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# A single currency to go down in history

he call for a single currency came loud and clear today from an unexpected quarter.

From a professor of history at Milton Keynes University.

And it was a call with a difference. Because the single currency that Professor Eric Frinton wants is nothing less than a retrospective single currency going back into history. Perhaps he ought to explain what he means by

"Perhaps I ought to explain what I mean by this." readily agrees Professor Eric Frinton. "Now, for a start, I am no ordinary professor of history. I am a professor of biography. As you know. biography is the new ... "Rock n'roll?"

"No." smiles Professor Frinton. "I would hate for biography to be the next rock'n'roll. It must be awful to be anything like rock'n' roll. What biography is, is the new novel. But there are problems encountered in the piography which you don't find in the novel. You may have read my book, The Problems of Biography?"

"No. actually."
"Well. not many people have. Only my students, in fact. And then not through choice. But I have identified one of the main problems of biography as being the financial uncertainty involved."

"You mean, people don't get well paid for it?" No, no. I mean that the readers of a biography set in

some past era are never

quite sure what the sums of money involved are. Take this example, from a life of Hilaire Belloc by AN Wilson which I happened to be reading this morning, where he says that Belloc's mother entrusted her financial affairs to a stockbroker, who vanished after losing her £12,000. She was left so impoverished that she applied to George Eliot for a loan of £500, which, says Wilson, was a very large sum of money then, in other words in the late Victorian era. But how large? Wilson does not say. Would it be £5,000? £10,000? £50,000?

£100,000? He does not say.

Probably, he does not know

or care. Because he knows

that in order to calculate



Miles Kington

how much that £500 would be worth today, it would take endless hours of research and comparison. You'd have to look at house prices of the time, food prices of the time. average incomes of the time. before you could finally tell us exactly what that £500 was worth today.

"But, if you had a single historical currency, there would be no problem."

"Pardon?" "Every time a biographer mentions a sum of money he feels constrained to translate it into modern terms. Sir Walter Scott had a debt of

£30,000, we are told, and the biographer adds, 'which in today's terms would be about £400,000°, but how much better it would be if we did not have to translate it. How much better if there were an agreed currency to express these things! We resent having to change currencies every time we cross borders, do we not? Well, I resent having to change currency every time we cross decades or centuries. I wish we could

same historical currency. You mean, translate all the money used in the past into a common currency? Why not? At least it

would give us a common language. At the moment it is all meaningless. If we read that Mr Pickwick pays 3d for a glass of beer, or that Napoleon receives 3,000,000 francs for the sale of Louisiana to the Americans. both figures are meaningless. We have no idea if Mr Pickwick was being extravagant, or Napoleon was being diddled. But if we adopted a common currency

in history, we would soon

"What currency would it

"Oh, I don't know. The historical ecn, perhaps? The thaler? The crown? The sovereign? The doubloon? It wouldn't really matter, as long as you had a common unit, tied to modern currency. In biographies writers never know in what terms to express currency. Sometimes they do it in terms of weekly wages and say: This was more than the average worker earned in six travel through time using the months in 1717. Sometimes they do it in terms of travel. 'In those days, this would have been enough to get a traveller to Edinburgh and back'. But until there is agreement over a common currency the reader will always be left guessing. For instance, when Judas sold Jesus Christ for 30 pieces of silver, how much was that? 30p? £300? £3,000?" "I don't know. How much

was it?" "Ah ha!" says Prof Frinton. "To find that out you'll have to read my new book, Money, The Bible and You. Available from all good bookshops at £17.99, or from me at £131"

هكذا من الأصل

# for the

other savers have had some lucky escapes are told that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance, and that some lucky escapes recently. It is a fluke that they have avoided losing money as a result of the activities of rogue traders in the City. On Friday evening, National Westminster Bank announced that a member of its staff had lost £50m. Fortunately, the bank is covering the deficit out of its own pocket and no client will suffer. of bonesty.

When Morgan Grenfell's highly regarded executive Peter Young made a series of illicit and disastrous investments for funds in which the

general public has an interest, the bank was no longer independent. On its own, it would have been unable to rectify the situa-tion. But some years earlier it had been taken over by the immensely strong Deutsche bank. The Germans are putting up the £300m required to make sure that none of Morgan Grenfell's clients suffer any

**Andreas** Whittam Smith

loss. In the case of Barings, whose Singapore operative Nick Leeson ran up £830m of losses, he was misusing Barings's own money rather than anybody else's. The City's oldest merchant bank vanished, repayment of its bond was put in doubt and the Baring family became a laughing stock, but that was that. It is purely fortuitous that

no member of the public has yet been affected. Go through the advertisements in the weekend press offering unit trusts and investments trusts and other schemes for investing in shares. Then ask the question: how many of the companies making these enticing claims with their unbeatable costs", their exhortations to act now, their free phone numbers, actually have £50m, or £300m, or £830m to make good any losses incurred by their own employees who deal outside their limits and then cover up

their mistakes? Very few. The accident is waiting to happen because the City has created a system for rewarding key staff which has a perverse effect. The payment of large bonuses for the aboveaverage performance encourages undue risk-taking, particularly as there is never any financial penalty for poor achievement. As the Bank of England points out in a study published yesterday, "the highest bonuses usually go to 'stars' who may feel compelled to justify their status by taking greater risks in the hope of making higher and higher profits". Winner-takesall payments systems are now a feature of the financial markets, as they are of the entertainment industries and of

professional sports. This means that the standard health, or rather wealth warning in the advertising of financial products is inade-

both capital and income values may go down as well as up, and that you may not get back the amount invested. That is the investment risk. What the Nat West, Morgan Grenfell and Barings cases show is that there is another aspect to be considered: the prudential risk - in other words, the question

There are many things that can be done to enhance the level of protection against this new danger - which isn't going to go away because the

Bank of England writes a paper dis-approving of City bonus schemes. Savers must begin to ask the companies managing their unit trusts or investment trusts and similar products: do you have

meet losses of upwards of £100m caused by dishonest trading? Here, the recent action by the admirable Mer-

cury Asset Management, the largest independent fund manager in the UK, is telling. It has arranged a standby loan of some £250m which can be drawn down in an emergency. This would be in addition to the £300m in surplus cash that the company has already acco-mulated. No other management group has yet followed Mercury's example.

Savers, therefore, must spread their risks in the timehonoured fashion. Just as it would be foolish to invest all your savings in a single share. so it is now imprudent to entrust your entire nest egg to the unit trusts or investment trusts of a single investment management group unless it is big enough to handle any conceivable disaster arising from dishonest trading. The extra charges should be seen as type of insurance premium.

There is likewise a classic response that the City's regulatory authorities, among them the Personal Investment Authority and the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO), can and should make. Without further ado,. they must insist on disclosure to highlight the new risk. Unit trust and investment trust managers advertising to the public should be required to state who their ultimate parent companies are, what their paid-up capi-tal amounts to, and, in cases where the ultimate owners are banks, what their credit rating is. Investors need to be able to assess strength as well

as expertise. And of course the obligatory warning must be rewritten to reflect reality. Not only can share prices fall as well as rise, but unauthorised activities by the investment manager's staff could lead to large losses. This needs to be spelt out clearly. Rogue trading quate. In the small print you can damage your health.

# Accounting Another sting in the tale of the city of scorpions

### by Patrick Cockburn

n AD 985 the Arab geo-grapher al-Muqadassi wrote that Jerusalem was "a golden basin full of scorpions". It has not changed. A thousand years later no city in the world is so divided by hate. And with the Israefi decision to build an archivals hereign and the state of the stat exclusively Jewish settlement at Har Homa last week, the bat-tle for Jerusalem is entering a more intense and, almost certainly, more violent phase.

A Palestinian strike paralysed East Jerusalem and the West Bank yesterday as Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, saw President Clinton in Washington to persuade him to get the Israeli decision reversed. This is unlikely to happen. By the end of March, Israeli bulldozers will start stripping the hill of Har Homa, known to Palestinians as Jabal Abu Ghneim, of its pine trees in order to build homes for 26,000 Jews.

It will be the largest Jewish settlement built in Jerusalem since 1980. Probably US offi-cials, in a self-congratulatory mood since they brokered the partial Israeli withdrawal from Hebron in January, underestimate its potential for igniting an explosion. This is despite the fact that it is disputes in Jerusalem. venerated by Jews and Muslims alike, that have in the past led to some of the bloodier episodes in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

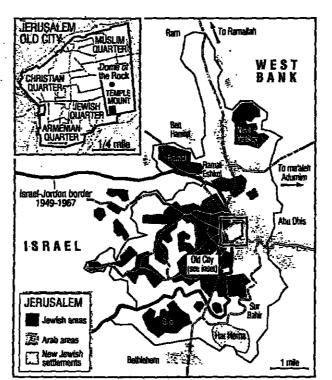
Only last September, 61 Palestinians and 15 Israelis were killed in fighting that fol-lowed the decision by Ben-jamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, to open up a tunnel running under the Old City of Jerusalem into the Muslim quarter. The only real surprise was that Mr Netanyahu did not see this coming. In 1990, Israeli soldiers shot dead 17 Palestinians they rushed to defend al-Agsa mosque after a false rumour that it was under attack by Jewish fanatics.

Superficially, Mr Netany was more even-handed with Palestinians over Har Homa announced that 3,000 homes for Arabs were also to be be built. "It is good for the Jews. It is good for the Arabs," said David Bar-Illan, his spokesman. Unfortunately this turned out to be untrue. Mr Netanyahu was recycling an exist-ing plan to build roads, sewers and water pipes in Arab neighbourhoods. He has no plans to build houses for Palestinians. An Israeli commentator said his original announcement was the sort of marketing gimmick" which in this government passes for grand strategy.

In theory it is difficult to see why there is any contest over Jerusalem. Israel has held the city since its army captured it from Jordan in 1967. Out of a population of 600,000, only 70,000 are Palestinians, Once wholly Arab, East Jerusalem now has a majority of Jews. The government says the historic balance between Jews and Palestinians, which it would like to maintain, is 72 per cent to 28 per cent.



The battle for Jerusalem, venerated by Jew and Muslim alike, is entering a more intense and, almost certainly, more violent phase



But these figures are deceptive and do not reflect the real halance of forces. The present municipal boundary is gerrymandered in a way that would bring joy to a Chicago wardheeler. Meron Benvenisti, former deputy mayor of ian townships and villages, but Jerusalem and author of City of at the same time to take as

Stone: the Hidden History of Jerusalem, points out that on capturing the city Israel not only annexed it, but expanded it by 71 square kilometres. The new city boundary was carefully drawn to exclude 28 Palestinian townships and villages, but much as possible of their building and agricultural land. The result of the gerryman-

dering is a city map which looks like an upended set of bagpipes, its snout pointing north. The real population of metropolitan Jerusalem about one million, if the whole urban area is included. The overwhelming Jewish majority is artificial. If Palestinian towns such as Bethlehem and Ramallah, each only 15 minutes by car from the centre of the city, are included in metropolitan Jerusalem, then half a million Jews are matched by an equal number of Palestinians.

This demographic point has an important political consequence. Jerusalem is meant to be the "eternal and undivided capital of Israel". Mr Netanyahu, successfully attacking the Labour prime minister in the election last year, predicted: "[Shimon] Peres will divide Jerusalem." But in every real sense Jerusalem is already divided. An Israeli taxi driver will not go to Palestinian areas. Drive north for a quarter of an hour and, without any change in the urban landscape, you are in Ramallah, which is under total Palestinian control.

It is not merely the construction of Har Homa, but the pretence that most of the half a million Palestinians in the

that their numerical predomin the city, that makes the preinance in Jerusalem is the result of gerrymandered boundaries. They cannot understand why the Palestinsent situation so dangerous. The Israeli Interior Ministry has put in doubt the Jerusalem identity cards of 120,000 out of the 170,000 Palestinians who ian Authority and its security hold them. Its reasoning is that services continue to operate in a Palestinian who lives in Ram the city, and demand their or Abu Dhis, Palestinian subexpulsion. They are unlikely urbs just outside the municipal to accept any form of power boundary, should have no more sharing or partition so that

rights in the city than if he or she Palestinians can also have their capital in Jerusalem. This is a pity because, on the lives in Indiana or Melbourne. Every day sees another skirmish for control of the city. ground, compromise is not Yitzhak Mordechai, the quite as difficult as it seems. defence minister, authorised at For hundreds of years, the the weekend the building of Palestinians have controlled iuu anarimeni hotel rooms to link the city with built by Herod, on which stand Ma'aleh Adumim, a large Jewthe mosques of al-Aqsa and ish settlement on the road to the Dome of the Rock. Together with the Old City. Jericho. The far right believes where Palestinians also preit can undermine the Oslo accords, in a way that it failed dominate this is the heart of Islamic Jerusalem. It would be to do over Hebron, by mobileasy enough to declare these ising a majority of Israelis behind the slogan that areas of de facto Palestinian Jerusalem is in danger. Already control as their legal capital. But it is doubtful if any Israeli



# Failed maths will never make the grade

The Liberal Democrats' pretence that £1.7bn is enough to make a difference does not add up

Lots of it. We must do. because politicians of all parties are tripping over each other to tell us how much higher their grades will be if they get the chance to improve things after the general

The Liberal Democrats go further. They have a cunning plan about how to pay for a bigger and better education system. They will put a penny on the basic rate of income tax to raise nearly £2bn a year.

Painful truths are a Lib Dem speciality. Improved education is essential for the future of the British economy, it is an investment in our future and it will not come free. They are the only party to spell out where the money for improvements will come from,

A penny on tax does not sound all that much to the typical voter, especially when missing the key phrase in the pound". It adds up to £180 a year - or nearly £3.50 a week for somebody on the national average sulary. This is nearly two pints of beer in Sedgefield, or a glass of decent chardonnay in an Islington wine bar reasonable people would probably be prepared to make that weekly sacrifice

for our children's future. in a recent speech, Malcolm Bruce, the Lib Dem Treasury spokesman,

spelt out the party's education priorities. Nursery education for all three- and four-year-olds whose parents want it, more books and equipment, decent schoolbuildings, and, especially, attracting the best and the brightest back into the teaching

The extra penny will raise £1.7bn in a full financial year. Suppose it is all spent on raising teachers' salaries to lure back all those talented people we all know who have given up teaching. It would amount to a generous 15 per cent pay rise. On the average teacher's salary of about £20,000, that is an extra £3,000 a year. Party on!

Of course, that would leave all the other priorities. Wages and salaries form the biggest single chunk of the education budget as teaching is such a labour-intensive activity. Increasing the number of teachers to reduce class sizes would be equally cashconsuming. Perhaps the teachers' pay bill had better go up by only 5 per cent, or £1,000 a year. That is about £12 a week after tax and national insurance, or six and a half pints of beer.

That would leave about £1.2bn a year for other priorities. This is enough, indeed, to raise capital spending on school buildings and equipment - think of all those



by Diane Coyle

1p on income tax will mend the education

system

computers needed in the modern classroom - by about a third. But the bottom line is that £1.7bn a year is not very much money compared to the cumulative total required to fill

in a hole left by years of underfunding especially when the Lib Dems have also earmarked the penny-in-thepound tax increase to pay for extra NHS spending, their other priority. It is not easy to say how big the funding hole is, for education spending

has actually risen in real, inflationadjusted terms every year since the Conservatives came to power, except for the past two when it has been virtually flat. The real problem is that, as with the NHS, the demands and expectations we are placing on the education system have risen, too.

So, for example, entrance to higher education has doubled since 1989 to include three in 10 of all young people leaving school or further education. The Liberal Democrats, like Labour, say they want to increase this proportion and expand the number of adults in higher education.

Schools clearly feel that they are struggling to meet the demands placed on them by the National Curriculum and testing. Which parents do not know of the extra tax already imposed by all those "voluntary" charges that schools must make for trips and special events? Then there is

supporting fund-raising events such as the summer fete. There must be a squeeze if the nation's primary schools are having to buy their computers courtesy of Tesco and Sainsbury.

All our politicians are guilty of not addressing the most difficult issue they face - if total government spending can rise, at most, at the same pace as the economy expands, what is to be done about the fact that our demand for public services is increasing much faster? The honest, plain-spoken Liberal Democrats are doubly misleading us by pretending that a small increase in tax rates will solve the problem.

It is not enough to say that education and health are priorities and will get the extra cash. It is not enough extra cash. Perhaps 5p in the pound would be, perhaps not. A penny is peanuts.

The language of priorities will have to be applied within education, too. If teachers are the most expensive part of our children's education, perhaps there should be fewer of them. Spend the £1.7bn a year on mechanising schools, Increase class sizes, install many more computers with Internet connections and more video links to distant lecturers, and let Mr Bruce advise the nation's best and brightest to retrain as software developers rather than teachers.



# business & city

# British Gas cuts £40 off bills in South-west

British Gas is today expected to announce cuts in charges worth an average of £40 a year for households in South-west England in a bid to win back domestic customers from rival

This will be the first time British Gas has introduced different prices for customers in different parts of the country. tomers to rival operators who But it will become an increas- are undercutting its standard ingly familiar feature as com- tariffs by 15 per cent to 25 per

holds that pay by direct debit the area of the market where

British Gas has suffered the heaviest loss of customers. Since competitive trials were launched in the South-west region last April British Gas has lost 19 per cent of its cus-

petition in the domestic gas market rolls out nationwide. Initially, the price reductions are likely to be limited to housemestic gas users in the area have switched to one of 10 rival

suppliers. Today Centrica, the supply arm of the newly demerged British Gas, is expected to announce it is introducing new tar-iffs in the South-west for direct debit customers which are 10-13 per cent below its standard tariff. This will still leave it more

Centrica and its cheapest rivals. At present Centrica is allowed to offer direct debit customers

nation-wide a 6 per cent discount

on its standard tariff. This is worth just under £20 a year on the average £330 household bill. The discount for direct debit customers in the South-west is expected to be roughly dou-bled. The charges will take effect immediately and Centri-

expensive than rival suppliers launch a local press and radio its direct debit customers now but it will halve the gap between advertising campaign as early as lured away by rival suppliers. In

The proposed new tariffs have not been approved by the gas industry regulator, Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas, and could result in a clash. Ms Spottiswoode could outlaw the price reductions if she decides the gas market in the Southwest is still not fully competitive.

Centrica is expected to argue that competition has been firmca is thought to be preparing to ly established with a quarter of trica being allowed to offer

lured away by rival suppliers. In addition Ofgas surveys in the re-gion have shown that customers are fully aware of the opportunities available, with nine in 10 able to name at least one rival supplier and eight in 10 of those who have switched sup-

However, rival operators have already served notice that they will fight to prevent Cen-

lower prices, arguing that com-petition is still not properly de-veloped. Calortex, which has about 40,000 customers in the South-west, says competition is not yet sufficiently established. A second phase of trials be-

gan among another 600,000 customers in Dorset and the former county of Avon on 10 February and the trials will be plier saying it was a very simple extended to a further 900,000 households in Kent and Sussex

from 7 March: Observers believe Centrica

quickly in the south of England because there are more customers with larger bills paying by direct debit than in the Southwest. Last month, rival suppliers in the South-west came under fire from the Gas Consumers Council for discriminating against customers on low incomes or benefit support by offering wealthier direct debit households prices which were up

to 34 per cent cheaper.

# BBC pay-TV deal with Flextech close

John Willcock

The BBC's long-awaited deal with Flextech to provide its first fully-fledged pay-TV service is expected to be signed this week. It also emerged vesterday that Flextech, a media company which is 51 per cent owned by struggling American cable giant TCL is putting up £20m in re-turn for a 50 per cent stake in the venture that will run for 30

The BBC and Flextech plan to brief City investors on the deal, which includes eight new pay television channels, next Monday. The two sides are optimistic that the new channels will be up and running on schedule this summer.

The channels will have access to the BBC's entire programme library, unlike UK Gold, which only has access to BBC programmes more than three years old. Programmes will be offered on digital cable, digital terrestrial and digital satellite. The venture represents the biggest fleetech will buy out Pearson diminish UK Gok foray yet by the BBC under the and Cox, who will both be left the BBC's library.

stewardship of John Birt into the "digital future". The BBC may also look for slots on ana-

Three quarters of free cash flow from the joint venture will be repaid to Flextech, the pay-TV packager, until the project breaks even. Under the deal Flextech and

TCI will secure a standby credit of around £100m to back the venture. One of the key aspects of the deal is that the BBC does not have to put up any money.

The deal has been the subject of lengthy and often controversial negotiations between Bob Phillis, chief executive of BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, and Roger Luard, chief executive of Flextech, and Adam Singer, president of TCI's international arm.

Under the deal Flextech will consolidate its ownership of two channels, UK Gold and UK Living. These are co-owned by the BBC, Flextech, Pearson and Cox Communications.

with shares in Flextech. Greg Dyke at Pearson's TV arm will end up with a 7 per cent stake in Flextech. However, there will be a share agreement which will secure TCI's control of Flextech.

Initially the venture will produce five new channels: BBC Showcase, an entertainment channel, BBC Horizon, documentaries, BBC Style, lifestyle, BBC Learning, for schools, and BBC Arena, for the arts. Three further channels are scheduled: BBC Sport, BBC Catch-Up, for repeats of popular programmes within days of their original transmission, and BBC One, a TV version of Radio One.

One of the thorniest subjects of the lengthy negotiations will have been over programme licensing agreements (PLAs). The BBC has a PLA with UK Gold which must be modified to allow the new joint venture channels to proceed. UK Gold will have been concerned to see that the the new channels do not diminish UK Gold's access to



Digital future: John Birt (left), and Roger Luard are optimistic the channels will be up and running this summer

# Rothermere descendants cash in PIA offered compromise

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Seven members of the Rothermere dynasty are cashing in shares in the Daily Mail & General Trust worth more than £160m in one of the close-knit family group's biggest ever transfers of ownership.

A placing of 11 per cent of the tightly held newspaper empire's non-voting shares will bring new investors into the Daily Mail to Evening Standard group but analysts said it leaves the Harmsworth (amily's grip on the company undiminished.

The 10.2 million shares. worth £163m at last night's closing price of 1.597.5p, are currently held by a trust set up by the late Mary Viscountess

second Lord Rothermere, who was father of the current chairman. An American, she brought six sons to her union with Lord Rothermere, adding a seventh. Esmond, from that marriage.

The seven are the main beneficiaries of the trust, whose largest asset by far is the Daily Mail shares. Most are US citizens aged between their thirties and fifties and currently living in America. Robert Fleming. which has advised them on the sale, declined yesterday to identify its clients.

Following the sale, which UBS and Cazegove are handling via a four-day book building exercise with about 50 institutions, Daily Mail's chairman, the third Lord Rothermere, and his family still control

quarter of the non-voting stock. Their continuing control

means the newspaper group has remained in family hands continuously since Alfred Northcliffe bought the business in 1896. After he died in 1922 his brother, the first Lord Rothermere set up the Daily Mail & General Trust as a vehicle for acquiring the paper so his brother's estate could pay death duties.

Oliver Pawle, at UBS, said there had been strong interest in the shares from institutions. many of whom have been unable up to now to acquire meaningful holdings in the tightly held stock. He expected to find eager buyers for the shares, a view backed up by Derek Rothermere, third wife of the 56.6 per cent of the company's Terrington, media analyst at

voting shares and just over a Teather & Greenwood, who said a trading statement accompanying the announcement

would support the shares at close to the £16.10p level at which they closed last Friday. He said comments on improved classified advertising revenue at the national titles and at the regional Northcliffe Newspapers group were encouraging. He also expected the fall in newsprint prices witnessed across the industry since the new

year to cut costs significantly. Adrian Perry, group treasur-er, said the fall in raw material costs would increase the proportion of profits coming through in the second half of the year to September. Last year the group announced profits before tax of £80m, up from £67m the

# with £160m Daily Mail placing on pension compensation

Nic Cicutti

Pension providers were set on a collision course with the Personal Investment Authority vesterday over their attempt to persuade the regulator not to proceed with tough new deadines for compensating victims

of the pension transfer scandal. Insurance companies are hoping to win the PIA's backing for a compromise proposal, under which they would write "letters of intent" to policyholders, promising compen-

sation at a future stage. The most radical proposal, put forward by Legal & General, would involve a guarantee to match any payouts made by a victim's former occupational

pension scheme at retirement.

By offering this guarantee companies hope to persuade the PIA to drop its demand that 90 per cent of serious pension cases, estimated at almost 400,000, must be completed and their policyholders fully compensated before the end of this year.

A similar proposal, revealed in The Independent almost two years ago, foundered because companies were then insisting on their right to claw back any investment gains made by their funds, above any compensation

A Legal & General spokes-man said: "There is a lot of discussion to be held still, but we hope this will be taken as a positive idea."

Indirect backing for the proposal came from Allied Dunbar,

whose group compliance officer, Andy Smart, said: "We are committed to ensuring that we put our policyholders right if we have disadvantaged them.

"If there are other ways of speeding up the process we will look at them. It is understood that Standard Life and other leading insurers

are discussing the proposals. However, a PIA spokesman said yesterday: "Our view is that we will continue to require substantial progress in the majority of cases before the end of this

Insurance companies are now pinning their hopes on the Securities and Investments Board. the City's most senior regulator. being able to persuade the PIA to accept the compromise.

## **Former** NatWest trader 'on leave'

Banking Correspondent

The interest-rate options trader at the centre of the £50m hole in NatWest Market's options trading book was not at his desk at Bear Steams. his new emInte

92 Gertier

ployer, yesterday.
A spokeswoman for the US securities firm refused to say if Kyriacos Papouis had been suspended as a result of the embarrassing problems at NatWest which surfaced late last week.

"I can confirm that he works at Bear Stearns although he is currently on leave pending fur-ther information, a spokes-woman said from Bear Steam's offices in New York. Mr Papouis left NatWest last December to join Bear Stearns. Nat West has refused to confirm he is the trader involved. Nor has the bank revealed the

identity of a senior trader who has been suspended for "failure to supervise" the operation, although he is widely believed to be Neil Dodgson.

A spokesman for Mr Dodgson said he could not comment on the case but would co-operate fully with any investiga-

The £50m hole, which was revealed after the markets had closed on Friday, sent the bank's shares plunging as low as 713.5p at one point yesterday. The shares recovered some of those losses to end at 731.5p, off

NatWest Markets continued its internal investigation into the affair, which surfaced just days after the investment hanking operation of Nat West reported a rise in pre-tax profits of more

than 50 per cent. The bank has hired external auditors to help with the investigation which could take several weeks, according to a NatWest spokeswoman.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the City regulator, and the Bank of England have been informed of the problems which surround the mis-pricing errors in its interest rate options book.

High profile: BT's campaign with Rory McGrath has been banned

FT Smalt Cap

# Watchdog bites to ban 'unfair' BT promotion

BT was yesterday ordered to scrap a promotion offering customers a quarter off their telephone charges if they agreed to desert rival operators and return to BT.

Michael Harrison

The telecommunications watchdog Oftel took the decision to ban the high-profile promotion featuring the co-median Rory McGrath after deciding that BT was in breach of its licence.

Oftel initially agreed to let BT run the compaign after being assured that it would only be nimed at consumers without a telephone and that the

Bay's change Change(%) 1996/97 Righ 1996/97 Lim Yield/%

4357 40 3632.30 3.70 4665.00 4015.30 3.37

22666 80 17303 65 0.881

13868.24 10204.87 3.20†

Source: FT Information

5032,94 1 96

STOCK MARKETS

Dow Jones

\_-1<u>27</u> 87

+4.22 +0.1

marketing spend would be a modest £180,000.

But it began to receive complaints from rival operators after the campaign turned into a full-scale multimedia exercise backed by a £2.5m budget designed to lure customers back from cable companies.

Don Cruickshank, the director general of Telecommunications, said: "Oftel has ordered BT to stop the campaign im-mediately. We have acted firmly because the campaign is not fair competition between opcrators. I am disappointed that I have had to act in this way, not least because one of the consequences of BTs actions is that taking on.

Honey Market Rates

.60\_\_\_668 \_541\_\_ 5.91

Pace Micro Tech 94.5 7.5 8.6

6 58

Price (s) Change (s) Changeti Falls

\_\_ 3 25 \_ 5 55 \_\_ \_\_\_ 6,29 \_\_ \_6.34

30.0 7.5 Centrica 63 8 38 5.6 Premier Farnell 481.5

some people without telephones will not now be able to

benefit from the current offer." Under the promotion customers who had had their BT line disconnected for at least three months could have it reconnected for the standard reconnection charge of £9.95 and then receive 25 per cent off all local, regional and national

calls for the first quarter. Oftel concluded that the offer, which was due to run until 10 March, breached BT's licence because it would never be able to recover the money the promotion was costing from the customers it succeeded in

7.82 7.33 7.95 6 02 6 84

Entrsh Polythene 705 34 4.6

Proce (s) Change (s) % Change

2 3.0 15 3.0

INTEREST RATES

Last night a BT spokesman said: "We have recieved the order and will comply with it with immediate effect. From today all advertising, promotion and mailing promoting the offer will stop. However customers who

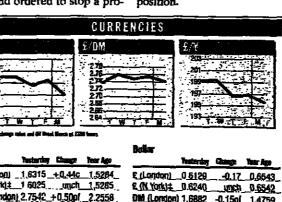
have already signed up will still qualify for the special offer." He added that BT would now look at its procedures to see how it came to be in breach of its licence and ensure it did not happen again. BT refused to say how many customers the offer had attracted, however.

This is the second time in recent months that BT has been slapped over the wrists by Oftel and ordered to stop a promotion. In October last year Mr Cruickshank insstructed BT to withdraw a joint promotion with BSkyB offering customers who took part in its friends and family scheme discounts on

Bob Frost, chief executive of the Cable Communications Association, said: "It is appalling that BT has misled the regula-

BSkyB subscriptions and monthly telephone bill credits.

tor and the British public. Don Cruickshank has acted swiftly to defend consumer choice and fair competition, once again underlining the continuing need for effective regulation to stop dominant players abusing their



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 Oil Brent S
 18.78
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 154.4
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 Gold \$
 362.75
 4.1
 398.30
 GDP
 109.7+2.6pc
 107.0
 25 Apr

 362.75
 4.1
 398.30
 GDP
 109.7+2.6pc
 107.0

 223.99
 4.16
 260.59
 Base Rates
 - 6.00pc
 6.75

# reduced the number of staff in

derstand why a bank can treat staff so hadly at a time of record profits and when shareholders are doing very nicely."

The bank is thought to have dished out generous borruses to its investment bankers. City

# **HSBC** profits soar by 23% to £4.5bn

Profits at HSBC, the banking giant, soared by 23 per cent to giant, soared by 25 per tent to £4.5bn in 1996, causing outrage among staff at its Midland Bank subsidiary who claimed there were plans to freeze the pay of more than one-third of the high street bank's employees. Midland's pre-tax profits rose by 27 per cent to £1.28bn. It has

its branches by 19.1 per cent in the last three years, but at First Direct, its pioneering telephone banking operation, staff numbers have increased by more than 50 per cent. "Staff are incensed by the freeze," said Alan Scrimgour, as-

sistant secretary at Bifu, the banking union. They can't un-

bonuses are concerning at the Bank of England which warned yesterday that some reward structures could have destablising effects on financial

said yesterday that the bank avoided theses pitfalls. He revealed that any investment banker receiving a bonus of more than £100,000 will be paid half in stock, with deferred conversion rights.
"We work all the time to im-

prove the control environment, Mr Bond said, adding the bank would analyse the problems experienced by Nat West Markets which has discovered a £50m hole in its options trading book. We don't like to see our com-

petitors burt in this way," said Mr Bond. "What we will do is as the facts become known, we will see how we would have coped in a similar situation."
HSBC made dealing profits of

£515m in 1996, down from £533m the previous year. Net fees and commssion increased 15 per cent to £2.75bn and rose in investment banking as result of increased advisory business in Asia Pacific and continential Europe, more funds under management and higher equity

market volumes. Commercial banking is the group's primary business, however. It derives 55 per cent of its profits from the Asia Pacific region where it owns or has John Bond, group chief stakes in a number of banking executive of HSBC Holdings, groups.

هكذا من الأصل

Orthern



# Why London isn't calling the shots anymore

What's going to happen to Kleinwort doner took over KB. Post the Peter Young a wider purpose determined not here in Lon-Robertson, storming off in a huff because more difficult within these German banks Did anyone really believe it would be any Robertson, storming off in a huff because his new German masters would not allow Kleinwort to carry on doing its own thing, the outlook could hardly look more uncer-

With the benefit of hindsight, it was naive of KB ever to believe it would be left to its own devices after being taken over by Dresdner Bank of Germany. There are few companies these days prepared to dole out the thick end of £1bn just to sit back and gaze in detached admiration at its new acquisition, rather in the manner of an old master,

But it was perhaps reasonable for Mr Robertson and his colleagues to believe Dresdner would want to use KB as the centre of its international investment banking and securities operation. That, after all, is what Deutsche was doing with Morgan Grenfell until the Peter Young fiasco so severely shook its confidence in the City. And that's roughly what Drescher said it would do with KB.

The watershed for Dresdner may also have been the Peter Young frasco. Certainly it is hard to imagine the Germans trusting such a vital group function as Treasury to its investment banking offshoot in London after this spectacular example of crookery compounded by negligence at the heart of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management. But there's probably a bit more to it than that. Things have changed quite a bit since Dres-

to leave it all to London "because they are so much better at it than us".

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Britain's progressive drift away from Europe has compounded the view in Frankfurt that these businesses are too important to be left to the Brits. The thinking behind Dresdner's falling out with Mr Robertson seems to be that London will become just part of a larger, global investment banking operation, reporting into Frankfurt like everybody else.

That's the backdrop. Overriding it was a very visible personality and culture clash. Not to put too fine a point on it, Mr. Robertson, German speaker though he is. didn't take kindly to being bossed around by the Germans. Like many in Britain, he's highly suspicious of monetary union, believ-ing it to be in part a disguised form of German imperialism. This was bardly a man likely to work happily with German masters.

Unlike many of its peers, KB has actually had a very good year. Dresdner's bid to con-solidate its position does not coincide with disastrous losses or some kind of grand show of British incompetence. But it really makes no difference. This is what happens to companies when they sell their independence to the highest bidder. In differing ways, all the British investment banks to have sold out are being emasculated by their new foreign owners, their noble ambitions now just part of Nick Leeson.

Did anyone really believe it would be any different? Why yes. Those that ran our merchant banks thought they were elever enough still to call the shots, despite the fact that they no longer controlled the businesses. In the real world it doesn't work that way. As for Kleinwort, in a few years' time it will proba-bly be known as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. Ten years down the line, as likely as not, the KB name will have disappeared entirely. By then clients will be dealing with just another German bank with interests in the City. As usual. Britain will have been the loser.

### Was NatWest unlucky or just sloppy?

Meanwhile, we've had another ringing re-minder of quite how dangerous this business is for those who don't know what they are playing at. For NatWest, the discovery of a rogue trader dealing in interest rate options could scarcely have come at a more embarrassing time. Big bucks are being invested in Nat West Markets, the group's investment banking arm. Projecting it into the big league is a cornerstone of group strategy. Worse, news of the £50m provision came just days after the bank's top brass had assured investors that all possible precautions were being taken to guard against another

Yvette Cooper

Manufacturing industry con-

tinues to grow strongly, the housing market continues to

pick up, but consumer credit is

weaker than expected accord-

ing to figures released yesterday.

The data gives the Chancellor of the Exchequer more reason

to keep a rise in interest rates

on hold when he meets Eddie

George, the Governor of the

Bank of England, this week. Output and orders in manu-

facturing industry, measured by the Purchasing Managers In-

dex, grew at the same pace in

February as they did the month

before. Consumer credit rose by

£853m in January, but the in-

crease was lower than many an-

alysts had expected.

Are these affairs, then, essentially random in the way they hit, just part of the territory, or do they owe more to a particular way of operating which is sloppy, old-fashioned and unprofessional? Out of the cases which have so far come to light in the City, the evidence points strongly to the latter. Both Barings and Morgan Grenfell showed up severe weaknesses in management and control, compounded by the City's bonus-driven sys-tem of remuneration. We have yet to discover whether the Nat West case is far different.

What is certain is that the flight to size and quality among clients can only accelerate -size because it provides the capital to weather the storm without harming the interests of clients, and quality because those with wider reputations to protect across a range of businesses are going to be doubly careful about excessive risk taking and doubly vigilant in compensating clients when things do go wrong.

### Ofgas must guard against discrimination

Beware of gasmen bearing low bills. To-day, provided its regulator does not ob-ject, British Gas's renamed trading and supply arm, Centrica, will start offering households in the South-west of England gas that is at least 10 per cent cheaper than it was yesterday. For the average domestic customer that is a saving of £30-£40 a year.

of money circulating in the

economy, grew by only 0.2 per cent in February, less than in previous months, pushing the annual rate down from 7.3 per

cent in the year to January to

ruary. "These results are better

than expected," said Simon

Briscoe of Nikko Europe. "It

was a little piece of good news for the Chancellor."

Sachs said the results were sur-

prising: "We would have expected to see weak manu-

facturing and strong consumer

demand. These figures seem to

Kenneth Clarke, the Chan-

cellor, is expected to keep in-

terest rates steady when he

indicate the opposite."

David Walton of Goldman

6.5 per cent in the year to Feb-

Slow rise in consumer credit

There is, however, something not quite right here. The South-west is the area of the country that is furthest away from where gas is landed on the east coast so, by rights, it should cost more, not less, in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset to reflect the extra cost of transporting it longer distances. The reason Centrica wants to charge less is because it is fac-ing competition in the South-west. It is beginning to hurt and will get worse when competition takes hold in the South as well. Rival suppliers see Centrica's tactics as an attempt by a still-dominant supplier to snuff out the competition before it is properly established. It will fall to Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas, whose relations with British Gas have not always been silky smooth, to arbitrate. She will need some compelling arguments as to why Centrica should be allowed to tear up the principle of uniform tariffs. BT has tried the same thing on in the past, arguing that some customers are more expensive to service than others only to be repelled, rightly, on the grounds that this is the price a dominant supplier must pay for the advantages that a nationwide network confers. The same arguments do not apply to Centrica which gains little advantage from supplying homes in John O'Groats as well as Land's End.

Instead, what the regulator must guard against is allowing Centrica to price differentially in a way that discriminates unduly against customers in different regions and income brackets. Today's price cuts will not last forever if the competition is nobbled.

# Interim buys Page in £346m cash deal

Clifford German

Michael Page missed out sharing in a £7m bonanza yesterday after the eponymous executive recruitment agency he founded 20 years ago was sold to Interim Services, a US-based agency, for £346m in cash, 17-times the value of the company only four

years ago.

Mr Page bowed out of the headhunter in September 1995, at the age of 50, selling his shares at the time for only about a third of the 557p, including a final dividend of 7p. Interim is paying.

But chief executive Terry Benson, who joined the firm in 1979, and finance director Ian Nash will share £7m between them in shares and options. Terry Benson alone has 900,000 options bought at 2p a share.

The bid price is 55p above the closing price last Friday. A year ago the shares were trading at 186p, two years ago at 113p and four years ago, in the trough of the recession, they bottomed

out at 33p.

Recruitment agency shares are enjoying being flavour of the month with City institutions, riding the boom generated by economic recovery, record company profits and soaring City

Michael Page, which spe-cialises in junior and senior management placings in the salary range between £20,000 and £100,000 a year, achieved a record profit before tax of £30.4m last year, an increase of 71 per cent.

Earnings per share rose 71 per cent to 31.5p, net cash reserves went up 57 per cent to £41m, and the dividend for the year is up 80 per cent at 9p. Business boomed in the UK,

which accounts for 64 per cent of group profits. Overseas markets also enjoyed a boom. including Netherlands, France, Australia and Hong Kong and

Banking Correspondent

Retailers in the North-east are

anticipating a mini-boom after

Northern Rock Building Soci-

ety floats on the stock market

in the autumn and distributes

free shares worth almost £1,500

Northern Rock, based in

Newcastle, is the smallest of the

societies which plan to convert

to banks this year but is paying

out the greatest windfull to its

900,000 members, half of whom

are in the North-east of Eng-

land. The floration is scheduled

The transfer document, pub-

lished vesterday, unveiled a

"flat" distribution scheme sim-

ilar to the controversial one cho-

sen by Alliance & Leicester.

Regardless of the balance in

their accounts, all eligible savers

and borrowers with Northern

for 1 October.

to each of its members.

only Germany remains a difficult market. The group pushed up operating margins from 16.1 per cent to 20.3 per cent of turnover. In 1991 it was just 3 But Mr Benson himself

admits ... at the recruitment business is highly cyclical and the opportunities to expand margins further are limited. Analysis said yesterday Interim had paid a very full price for Page. The cash consideration will take its gearing to more than 100 per cent. Demand for executives has outpaced supply, and the cost of recruiting has begun rising steadily. Michael Page increased its own staff numbers by 30 per cent last year to over 800. But further growth is still possible, according to analyst Will Wallace at SG Warburg. He has raised his forecast for the current year from £31.5m to £35m.

Michael Page will retain its separate identity and the two executives will remain on oneyear rolling contracts on the same terms as before. The two businesses are complementary.



Headhunter Terry Benson: Set to bag a share of the £7m

yesterday.

US market and Interim which

Interim's president and chief specialises in blue collar reexecutive Ray Marcy said cruitment, contract workers and healthcare, to tap the UK The takeover will allow market. Michael Page could Michael Page to expand into the open in New York by the late

# Whitehead Mann plans flotation

While Michael Page yesterday announced its exit from the stock market, the rival Whitehead Mann recruitment group issued its pathfinder prospec-tus with the aim of raising between £20m and £25m from a llotation later this month, writer Clifford German.

Clive Mann, chief executive of Whitehead, said the flotation would aid expansion plans. Whitehead, which operates out of London and Solibull, is planning to open an office in Leeds and could grow its workforce from 80 to 120 in two years, he

Mr Mann, his wife Anna and director Nigel Smith will

David Baker, executive di-

rector of Northern Rock, said

this distribution scheme for the

In a bid to avoid controver-

sy caused by the inability of oth-

er converting societies to

distribute free shares to some

disabled members. Northern

Rock intends to give a £1m do-

nation to charities for the dis-

the North-east is expected to re-

ceive the shares, which are

forecast to be worth between

260p and 295p. The total value

of the allocation will be worth

The exact value of the shares

will be known on 1 October

when the society expects its

stock market flotation to go

ahead. Members must vote on

the flotation plans by post by 12 April or at a meeting lat New-

castle Arena on 15 April.

between £1,300 and £1,475.

One in three households in

abled and their carers.

shares was the most suitable for

Northern Rock to

pay £1,500 in shares

members

see their shareholdings reduced from 73.6 to 37 per cent, cessions. But Mr Mann said "a netting up to £7m from the flotation. The pathfinder includes a forecast for the profit for the financial year to the end of this month of £2.4m, before flotation expenses.

The company, which finds ex-ecutives to full some of the top board positions in the UK and can claim as clients over 40 of the UK's FTSE 100 companies, is ranked third in the British recruiting market, according to a recent survey carried out by the Economist Intelligence Unit. Analysts, however, have warned that the recruitment

market suffers from cyclicality

Millennium & Copthorne, one

of the most successful of last

year's clutch of hotel industry

flotations, left analysis' forecasis

standing yesterday as it an-

nounced a sparkling set of full-

year figures. The City shrugged

off news that the company's

chief executive was to leave

within three months, as soon as

a replacement can be found.

Edouard Gremlich joined

Millennium's former parent,

Singapore-based CDL, three

years ago and was given the re-

mit of building up the company

in preparation for a flotation.

Having done so, and seen the

company's shares prosper in its

first year on the London mar-

ket, he wanted to spend more

time with his family in Boston.

He leaves a hotel group,

mainly London- and New York-

based, but with a chain of UK

Tom Stevenson

City Editor

Millennium profits

rise catches City out

recession is not necessarily bad for us" as companies in trouble tend to have boardroom shakeups. He conceded, though, that in 1990 business did decline very slightly and the rate of growth

was below par in 1991. Mr Mann said the com is primarily interested in looking for executives to fill jobs with pay packages worth £90,000 and over - the average worth of a contract that the company finds someone to fill is £130,000 and executive search work accounts for 68 per cent of group turnover and gives rise to 70 to 80 per cent repeat business.

provincial hotels and a handful

of sites in France and Germany

which saw profits grow 63 per cent to £39m in the 12 months

to December. Analysts, who had

expected profits of around

£34m, were busily apgrading

their forecasts for the current

6.5p higher last night at 383p,

well above the 278p at which they were placed last April.

Millennium's shares closed

Profits were driven by high

levels of occupancy, even in

London where an extensive re-

furbishment programme put its

Gloucester and Bailey's hotels

out of commission during the

year, and rising room rates. In London the achieved rate rose

15 per cent from £62.85 to

£72.19. Revenue per available

room increased by 12 per cent

in London, 16 per cent in the

UK provinces and by 10 per

Investment column, page 16

cent in New York.

year to as high as £48m.

### Pre-tax profit up 23% and attributable profit

- In Hong Kong dollar terms pre-tax profit

- with scrip dividend alternative
- Total capital ratio 15.3% and tier I capital

M0, a measure of the amount meets the Governor on f money circulating in the Wednesday, despite Mr conomy, grew by only 0.2 per George's persistent pressure ent in February, less than in for a small rate rise. Speaking to the annual dinner of the ing of export demand in Feb-British Retail Consortium last night, Mr Clarke said: "I am re-Meanwhile domestic conassured by the exceptional lack sumer credit grew steadily in January, although not as fast as of inflationary pressures in the

to expand. According to the PMI report: "Producers of in-

vestment goods were the only

companies to see a strengthen-

analysis had predicted. Con-The Purchasing Managers sumer credit rose by 16.7 per Index provided support for the cent since last January, only mar-Chancellor's position, as it ginally higher than last month's showed the price index falling from 43.1 in January to 39.7 in figure of 16.6 per cent growth in the year to December. February, Analysts said the fall reflected lower import prices Within the overall figures,

credit card spending was its lowest for a year, at £88m, however mortgage borrowing grew strongly. The number of net new commitments to lend mortgages rose by 97,000 in January,

# HSBC Holdings plc



# Results for 1996

For the year	1996	1995
Profit before tax	£4,524m	£3,672m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£3,112m	£2,462m
Earnings per share	117.61p	94.01p
Dividends per share	41.00p	32.00p
Capital resources	£23,486m	£21,324m

- up 22% and attributable profit up 25%
- Earnings per share up 25%
- Dividends per share up 28%
- Second interim dividend of 26 pence per share,

Comment by Sir William Purves, Group Chairman

thanks to sterling's depreciation. The main PMI index re-

mained roughly steady at 53.5

in February compared to 53.9

in January, revealing that the

manufacturing sector continues

66 The good results of HSBC Holdings in 1996 demonstrated solid growth in our husiness and improved profitability in all of the major geographic regions where we operate.

"The Board of Directors has declared a second interim dividend (in lieu of a final dividend) of 26 pence per ordinary share payable on 30 April 1997, about a month earlier than

"This excellent performance would not have been possible without the many contributions of our staff around the world, and the Board thanks each and every one of them.

"Despite intense competition in all of our markets, our net interest margins improved, although, as expected, there was some contraction in Hong Kong in the second half of the year. Costs were well controlled.

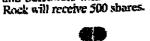
"While we are satisfied with the Group's performance, 1997 will be a year filled, for us, with challenges and opportunities, marked, most importantly, by the transition of Hong Kong to a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

"Around the world, financial markets are consolidating and new competitive threats are arising from non-traditional participants in those markets. I am optimistic und confident that we have the people and the financial strength to meet the challenges and take full advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead. 99

Copies of the full results announcement may be obtained from Group Public Affairs. 10 Lower Thomes Street, London EC3R 6AE. United Kingdom. The 1996 Annual Report and Accounts will be sent to shareholders on or about 25 April 1997.

Incorporated in England with limited liability Registered in England: number 617987

Registered Office and Group Head Office: 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6AE, United Kingdom



# Chiroscience shares go on roller-coaster on trial news

Shares in Chiroscience jumped nearly 7 per cent at one stage yesterday after the biotechnology group said it was ready to start human trials of a competitor to British Biotech's Marimastat anti-cancer drug.

Dr John Padfield, chief executive, said they had selected two so-called matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) inhibitors. the same class of drug as the one which recently sent British Biotech to the verge of mem-

The Roslin Institute, the government-financed research centre near Edinburgh which developed Dolly, the cloned sheep, vesterday denied a weekend press report that it was to float on the stock market, writes Magnus Grimond.

The news came as shares in PPL Therapeutics. Roslin's com-mercial partner in the project. slumped 82.5p to 430p, wiping out some of the gains since soaring after last week's announcement that Dolly had become the first onimal to be cloned.

bership of the FTSE 100 index. for early stage trials in human volunteers starting later this year. But some analysts expressed disappointment the tests were not starting earlier and profit-taking later hit the shares. which have soared from 320.5p in early February, and they ended the day down 15.5p at 397p.

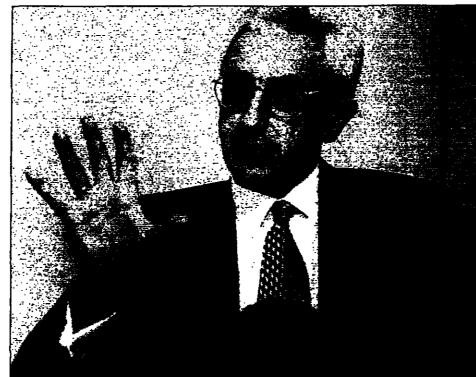
Dr Padfield said the importance of drugs of this type in the battle against cancer was becoming more widely appreciated. surgery and post-operative pain.

ingly side effects that was the key question. "The two compounds we have identified! have shown no undue side effects, particularly

with respect to joint pain." Recent test results from Marimastat showed that up to a third of patients suffered pains in the arms and shoulders after three to five months' use of the drug. Dr Padfield said their tests using monkeys showed no undue side-effects after three months of its treatments, codenamed D1927 and D2163. "We are confident that it will have a good safety profile in man.

Unlike Marimastat and other MMP drugs, the Chiroscience compound is not based on hydroxamic acid, which appears to be associated with the joint pains, Dr Padfield said. However, he admitted they would not know definitively how the drug performed until it was tested in cancer patients and many analysts said the drug was at a very early stage.

More of the company's immediate hopes are pinned on Levobupivacaine, a more chemically pure form of the long-acting local anaesthetic bupivacaine. Dr Padfield reported "excellent" progress with the drug, with reduced side effects and equivalent anaesthetic potency. Results of recent phase III trials will be published in April and it could be on the market late in 1998, he said. The current market of \$200m to \$250m could grow to \$800m or \$900m over the next years if the drug widens the markets in areas like eye and dental



Dr John Padfield: Believes he may have the drug to rival Marimastat in cancer treatment

One analyst said he was a buyer of Chiroscience principally on the back of Levobupivacaine. "We believe the prospects for that account for a significant slug of its present market capitalisation".

Dr Padfield promised news in May of the progress of re-search with Darwin, the US drug discovery group which brought Microsoft founder Bill Gates in as a shareholder when it was acquired in November.

The shares of two other hiotechnology companies fared better yesterday as both Vanguard Medica and Alizyme reported their maiden annual results since floating last year. AIM-listed Alizvme's shares gained 3p to 35.5p yesterday despite news that co-founder and chief executive Andrew Porter was stepping down. He will continue to act as a non-executive director. He is being replaced by

searcher with Glaxo Wellcome, who has been chief operating officer since September. The company announced a £1.02m loss

for the six months to December. Meanwhile, Vanguard saw its shares rise 2.5p to 682.5p after it said Smithkline Beecham had confirmed its intention to take up the world-wide marketing rights for its VML 251 antimigraine drug. Pre-tax losses rose to £11m for the year to Sep-tember, from £3.67m before.

### IN BRIEF • British Petroleum and Royal Dutch/Shell have discovered a

third oilfield west of Shetland. The companies said an exploration well had encountered a potentially commercial volume of hy-drocarbons on UK block 204/19. The discovery, named Suilven, lies to the north of the Foinaven and Schiehallion fields, some 100 miles west of Shetland. Although the well was not tested, the log and core data confirmed the presence of hydrocarbons, the companies said. Richard Olver, deputy chief executive of BP Exploration, said: "This is an encouraging discovery."

 SIG. the building products group, has sold its security and hardware division to a management buyout team, led by David Hunt and backed by NatWest Ventures, for £65m. Bill Forrester, chief executive of SIG, said the company would require a 15 per cent return on any acquisitions it made with the proceeds of the sale would raise average return to shareholders." he said and added that SIG Architectural Products was producing a return of only 10.5 per cent on the value placed on it by the buyout team.

• Traders who have lost out in barter transactions will be able to obtain bad-debt relief for VAT following a European Court of Justice ruling in favour of jewellery chain Goldsmiths. The company's advisers, accountants Ernst & Young, argued that the UK Government had exceeded its authority in claiming that repayments could only be made if the transaction involved money.

· Newman Tonks, which has agreed to be taken over by Ingersoll-Rand, said the cost of defending the hostile bid made by FKI was £6.3m. Full-year results from Newman showed that operating profits rose from £19.3m to £20.6m, but the pre-tax result fell from £27.2m to £6.3m after £11.8m of exceptional charges, against £10.1m of credits last time. Total dividend rises from 6.9p to 8.025p.

 Granada has sold the Plaza Athenee Hotel in Paris to PA Holdings France for £45m. The Plaza Athenee is part of the Exclusive portfolio and PA Holdings is controlled by a group of Brunei-based investors. In the last full 12-month trading period to January 1996, the Plaza Athenee made £200,000 before tax from £21m of turnover, and had net assets of £35m.

 European Leisure announced an increase in first-half taxable profits from £2.2m to £3.04m. Interim dividend is being restored with a 1p payment, Ian Rock, chief executive, said that since the new year. American Pool Bars. Snooker Clubs and Maygay had traded well, although turnover in the bars and discotheque business continued to be below earlier expectations.

 Yorkshire Water started to buy back almost 367 million 'B' shares at 3op each. The shares represent about 89 per cent of the 'B' shares in issue and will be cancelled.

• Inspec, the chemicals group, reported a slight increase in full-year pre-tax profits from £31.1m to £32m. Total dividend is 6.3p. up from 6p. John Hollowood, chairman, said the strength of sterling presented the group with a challenge but added that the benefits of organic growth would help mitigate the impact of the current level of exchange rates.

 Lourho has increased its interest in The Sugar Corporation of Malawi from 51 to 60 per cent and in Dwangwa Sugar Corp from 27 to 49 per cent for a total of £18.1m in cash.

	Turnover E	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Dividend
Altzyme (F)	(91m (-)	1 01m (-)	-6 Op (-)	-
Ashanti <del>Coldileids</del> (SP)	\$564m (\$387.7m)	\$81.5m (\$60 1m)	0 88c (0.64c)	37.5c (37.5c)
Argumore Foeds (F)	IR1.32bn (IR1 22bn)	36 5m (32.1m)	17.19p (15 46p)	4.5p (4 1p)
Bluebird Toys (F)	67.7m (87 3m)	9.93m (17 8m)	14 7p (26p)	9 Op
9rkisk Polythene (F)	412m (352m)	28m (25 1m)	47 07p (47.35p)	18 25p (16.5p
Bronel Holdings (1)	70.52m (93.9m)	-7 03m (133.000)	-6.3p (nil)	
Brassaer Mood (/)	72.2m (66.5m)	8.4m (5.8m)	8 6p (6.5p)	29p (7.9p)
Çemeatone (F)	19 6m (18 3m)	860.000 (556.000)	3 lp (2.51p)	1 5p (1 4p)
Close Brothers (1)	· (-)	28 2m (21.7m)	15.31p (12.64p)	3.80 (3.20)
Cornwell Parker (1)	45.25m (41.54m)	7.29m (-3.37m)	13.0p (-7.0p)	1 Op (0 3p)
Formscaa (I)	2 45m (2.53m)	594,694 (511,845)	4.85p (4.01p)	1.0p (nE)
Furlang Homes (F)	12.24m (8.82m)	1 01m (621,000)	14.6p (12.4p)	3 3p (2.5p)
667 Group (1)	170 6m (156m)	3.4m (2.9m)	7 89p (7.47p)	2 3p (2 1p)
Harys (I)	542 6m (465 6m)	64.2m (60 8m)	10.9p (10.3p)	3.0p (2.6p)
HSBC (F)	- (-)	4 52bn (3 77bn)	117.61p (94 01p)	41p (32p)
ospec Group (F)	301.1m (195 5m)	32m (31 1m)	18 24p (21 94p)	6. <b>3</b> p
Lifeshall (F)	97.25m (93.87m)	1.35m (3.96m)	1.7p (6.4p)	4 85p (4 85p)
Michael Page (F)	142.1m (103.8m)	30 4m (18.4m)	31.5р (18.4р)	9p (5p)
Millennium & Cop. (F)	179.3m (159.2m)	38m (6 4m)	23.7p (10p)	4.7p (2p)
Herman Teuls (F)	258.8m (231.5m)	6.3m (27.2m)	-0 47p (14 11p)	8.025p (6.9p)
Perkins Foods (F)	466.2m (430 7m)	23.5m (21 9m)	8.5p (8.2p)	4.5p (4.5p)
Sterwood Int (F)	24 63m (26.25m)	2.1m (1 <i>2</i> m)	19.2p (-)	4 5p (3.75p)
fanguard Medica (F)	595 000 (-)	·10 95m (-3.67m)	-53p (-33p)	<u> </u>

# New team helps Close Bros interims rise 30%

Richard Palmer, a former re-

John Willcock

Close Brothers, the niche merchant bank, pleased investors with better-than-expected halfvear results, with particularly good earnings from the Hill Samuel corporate finance team it acquired from Lloyds TSB last 387.5p yesterday in a flat market, after it unveiled pre-tax profits for the six months to 31 January 1997 up 30 per cent at £28.2m.

casts of £25m to £26m. Asset finance. Brian Winterflood's market-making business, and merchant banking improved their performances.

Rod Kent, chief executive, said: "Merchant banking improved its share of our profits, up from 22 to 26 per cent. The five-strong team from Hill by the time of the finals."

Forward Group, the makes of

printed circuit brards, vesterday

agreed to a £129m takeover bid

from PCB Investments of the

US, a deal that will yield more

than £50m for Raymond Cham-

berlain, chairman, and other

family members. The 230p per

share bid comes just three

months after Forward's shares

were sent plunging from 263p to 110p after the company is-

sued a profits warning.

Mr Chamberlain owns 6.6

million shares, worth £15m on

the bid terms, and his family owns a further 15.3 million. To-

gether with acceptances by other directors, PCB is virtually

home and dry with over 40.3 per cent of Forward's equity.
PCB, a company established

by private US investment fund - Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst

Equity Fund III - said it intends to use the takeover as a spring-

board to launch into the European electronics market where

it sees "excellent opportunities"

for growth, according to Daniel

Dross, vice chairman. PCB owns Viasystems, which was poised to compete head-on with Forward.

The offer represents a exit multiple of 23.5 times based on

Foward's estimates of pre-tax profits of £8m and earnings of

9.8p per share for the financial

year ended January. Forward's

shares rose 61p to 225p

Martin Glanfield, finance

thought the offer price was

"fair" given the current uncer-

director of Forward, said he cuit boards. "The merger will

tainty surrounding the elec- while there are unique tech-

Samuel has litted in well with our smaller operation, and together they've completed 18 deals worth over £1bn in the half year."

He added: "I think some people may have been worried that the move to an order-driven system in the stock markets may have hit Winterfloods, but won't be used for the smaller cap companies which Winterfloods specialises in.

Close Brothers' earnings per share rose 21 per cent to 15.31p, This was well ahead of fore- and the half-time payout was

raised 19 per cent to 3.80p. The figures had analysts upgrading their forecasts for the full year. Robert Mumby of BZW said: "These were a very good set of results across the board, and ahead of my estimate of £26m. The share price could go higher by 10 per cent

"There has been some im-

provement in the market over

the past two months, but it's too

early to say whether this can be

sustained. Furthermore, Via-

systems is set to become a big

player in Europe and we had to

ask ourselves whether we

wanted to compete against

them or join forces," he added.

two sides started three weeks

ago. Mr Glanfield said the

board had extracted a better

price from PCB than originally

Raymond Chamberlain: His

tabled, "We did not start nego-

tiations at 230p ... we managed

to squeeze more out of them."

tion of Forward with Viasystems

the manufacture of printed cir-

allow us to improve our pur-

chasing power with suppliers,

would create a global force in

Mr Dross said the combina-

Serious talks between the

Family makes

£50m as PCB

**buys Forward** 

Mr Mumby discounted the possibility of a bid for Close, saying its businesses were "too specialist. It wouldn't be a strategic acquisition for anyone". Mr Kent also thought a bid

other banks move in mysterious though the forthcoming general election may cause a temporary slowdown in some of our businesses, the UK economy re-

unlikely, but added: "God and

mains strong and we remain confident of our prospects." Martin Cross, an analyst with UBS, said that the only drawback to the bank was that 100 per cent of its business was in the UK. "A new government may put the brakes on corporate activity. But the second half looks to be more of the same and I'm raising my estimate for the full year by 10 per cent to £54.5m-£55m."

# GGT to pay £96m for ad group

The long-awaited takeover by GGT Group of the BDDP advertising group in France was finally announced yesterday. The £96m deal comes almost six mouths after dealings in GGT shares were suspended at 223p, and during which time sterling has appreciated 16 per cent against the franc.

GGT accompanied the deal with a placing and open offer priced between 220p and 280p a share to raise £55m, and an announcement that profits for the half year to last October rose from £2.9m to £3.4m before tax. The interim dividend rises from

2.1p to 2.3p.
Further funding for the deal will come from a £67m new medium-term multi-currency credit facility arranged through

ING Barings.
Part of the facility will also be used to repay bank debt cur-rently provided by a syndicate of banks to BDDP and amounts currently outstanding under a revolving credit facility currently provided to GGT by Bank of Scotland.

It is expected that completion of the acquisition will occur and that dealings in the existing or-dinary shares and the new ordinary shares will commence on 3 April

GGT said that to attract and retain clients in an increasingy global market, it was important to strengthen the group's international presence. For the year ended December 31 1995. BDDP's consolidated revenues tronics industry and the market nologies pertaining to both comfor semiconductors generally. nologies pertaining to both companies which can be utilised." (£123m). were approximately Fr1.14bn THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

# A bargain to be made in Hays while it's marked down

Hays' share price was a rather cumudgeonly response to another set of solid figures. The markets chose to ignore the one with interest cover running markets chose to ignore the underlying 18 per cent in-crease in interim profits to £72m, concentrating instead on the higher-than-expected exceptional charges Hays in-curred in respect of the aborted bid for fellow logistics group Christian Salvesen and the integration of the newly acquired courier business ICS. A better figure to have concentrated on would have been

the thumping great earnings multiple being forked out for the executive recruitment group Michael Page, which rather puts the value of Hays' own personnel services division BPI wraps into perspective.

Profits here increased by a

third and, whereas Michael Page is being bought up at the top of the cycle, Hays' con-centration on placing lower grade staff in temporary employment makes it less vulnerable to the next downturn or a few star performers taking their client base elsewhere.

Nor should an incoming Labour government armed with a nanonal minimum wage and the Social Chapter hold any fears for Hays since, if anything, employers will be encouraged to employ more part-time and contract staff.

As for ICS, which specialises in door-to-door deliveries, the f5m rationalisation charge being taken in the half-year seems a small price to pay. ICS is capable of turning in profits of £9m a year, suggesting that Hays got rather a bargain in paying £65m for the business last September. While office support services

such as mail delivery are likely to prove the area of biggest growth, it would be wrong to gnore the vast potential that continues to lie within Hays core distribution and logistics business. In particular, Hays has succeeded in cracking the with a five-year contract to develop and manage two large distribution centres for the supermarkets and DIY chain Kriegbaum.

For no capital cost, Hays has secured itself a toehold in the biggest retail market in western Europe. If its experience in France, where Hays has a relationship with most of the top retailers, is anything to go by, then this could be the start of a very successful and profitable foray not just into Germany but further east.

There is still some lingering

Hays: At a glance

Established state (section 1977) 16.2 2.2 2.3 2.5 2.5

Dividends per share (pence) 6.10 7.00 8.10 7.25 - 3.0

Operating profit by activity | Share price (Pensi)

Market value; \$2,2300, share price 537p

94 95 96 95 96

Full year — Had year —

87.8 110 132 80.8 84.2

The markdown yesterday in disappointment that Hays never consummated the Salvesen deal. Despite having at a colossal 16 times earnings, there were few hints yesterday that Hays plans to depart from

its strategy of organic growth and modest bolt on acquisitions. This may not set the pulse racing but, as the share price graphic shows, it has served investors well. Profits of £155m for the full year and £176m in 1998 put the shares on a for-ward multiple of 21 times earnings falling to 19. You can buy cheaper but you can-

# up Europe

With very little fanfare, British Polythene Industries has grown to become not only the UK's but Enrope's biggest producer
of polyethylene film, a ubiquitous if mature product used in
the wrapping of everything
from bread to silage. This commanding position has been
built on the back of a steady programme of vacuuming up the smaller fry in the UK industry at keen prices. Under chairman Cameron McLatchie, British Polythene has completed over 50 acquisitions in the last 10 years or so, with

£23m being spent on 11 buys last year alone.

But, surprisingly, BPI has until now never made a purchase on the Continent. That is being put right with yester-day's announcement that it has agreed to pay around £14m equivalent to net asset value for Wavin, a Belgian industrial film and sack business. The operation, which traded around break-even last year, adds turnover of £47m and looks like a typical BPI turnaround

Back home, the company continues to demonstrate its ability to squeeze money out of an extremely competitive market. Pre-tax profits up 12 per cent to £28m in the year to December included only £170,000 from last year's acquisitions.

Those purchases are a York hotel markets, Millenni-dowry for the future. Bringing um has been in the right place them up close to group margins of around 8 per cent over the next few years should add an additional £6m or so to the bottom line, for an investment of £2m in the latest two half years. But yesterday's fig-

that buying chesp can have its

Reorganising Parkside, a confectionery to flour bags producer acquired in November 1995, kept it in loss last year, although BPI expects a film turnaround into the black this year. More seriously, it is warning that Far Eastern competition in the commodity carrier bag business, already two thirds of the market, is being exacerbated by cheaper polymer costs there and the strong pound. So this year will strong pound, so this year war see another f2m being spent reorganising the Alida Packaging and Bibby & Baron businesses, shedding jobs and concentrating on higher-margin promotional bags.

The extra costs have its

Merrill Lynch to shave its forecast by 10 per cent to £29m yesterday, putting the shares down 34p at 705p on a forward p/e of 15. Even with turnover approaching £500m. the shares are high enough.

### Family values at Millenium

Chief executive Edouard Gremlich's decision, genuine in this instance, to spend more time with his family is a blow to Millennium & Copthorne but one that the market took in its stride yesterday. The shares, which have motored since last April's placing at 278p, closed another 6.5p higher at 383p as analysts focused on a sparkling set of re-

sults for the year to December. Pre-tax profits of £39.3m were 63 per cent higher than 1995's pro forma £24.1m and well ahead of expectations which had left brokers a good £5m behind the game. Earnings per share of 23.7p left the 4.7p dividend for the eight acquisition which should pro- months since flotation well vide a beach-head for further covered. Arguably the best of M&C has not put a foot wrong

since coming to the market. As in any property-based business, the keys to the success of a botel chain are location, location, location. With two thirds of its revenues coming from the booming London and New at the right time. Despite heavy refurbishment programmes, occupancy in London remained safely above 80 per cent and even in the provinces, where weekend bookings are hard to come by, the Copthorne hotels

Just as important, the room rate achieved for those rooms rose in all four of the group's markets, even in France and Germany. In London there was an impressive 15 per cent rise to £72 a room and the increase is still under way, the company says. Booming markets are doubly good for a high fixedcost business like a hotel and Millennium reckons it converted two thirds of last year's extra sales directly into profit. Looking ahead, the com-

pany is sticking with its prudent refusal to pay the frothy prices being demanded by hotel vendors and reckons it has plenty to go for internally. Certainly much of the benefit of refurbs is still to show through. That should make Kleinwort

Benson's forecasts of £48m this year and £57m in 1998 look conservative, compared with an earnings growth rate three-times the average. Good value.

# Bluebird profits dive as unsold stock builds up

the stock market, yesterday announced a 35 per cent drop in profits as a slump in the British toy market left the company with stocks of unsold goods.

The company, which designs and sells miniature toys based on Walt Disney, Batman and other characters, said pre-tax profits before exceptional charges were £11.03m, down from £17.8m a year earlier and the £19.7m made in 1994. The shares gained 2.5p to 185p, but stand well adrift of the 375p peak they hit just before Christmas in 1995.

Bluebird's results come after a mixed year for toy retailers. Many reported lower-than-expected sales at Christmas, when

of a full year's profit, as con-sumers held back on spending. Hamleys, the UK's largest toy store, said in January it was disappointed with a 3 per cent yearon-year rise in Christmas sales.

Despite the profit setback, however, Martin Bunting, chair-man, said the stock problems at Bluebird had largely been overcome. New products such as miniature Disney toys and toys based on Marvel comics such as Spiderman should lift sales this year, he said. Stock levels this year are "much closer to opti-

He said: "We have a very fo-

Bluebird Toys, once a darling of they can make as much as half the many opportunities for the continued development of Bluebird."

The company took an exceptional charge of £1.1m to close a distribution and manufacturing site in Wales.

Mr Bunting said: "The decision to leave Dragonparc.has been a difficult one to make and is a result of changes in market conditions and a consequential change in the nature of our

Shareholders will receive an unchanged 9p dividend, covered less than twice by earnings per share that fell from 24.2p to 16.4p. Bluebird intends to seek cused, newly streamlined and a further share buy-back aucash-generative business which thorisation at the next annual should allow us to capitalise on general meeting.

المكذا من الأصل

The Booms



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Burt Rutan had a dream - to build a twin-engine plane that would fly more economically, symmetrically and significantly safer than conventional designs. Fortunately, Burt Rutan also had a computer

designed to help people dream. An Apple™ Macintosh™ personal computer. Macintosh computers are packed with some of the most advanced technology in the has a dream. industry, yet they're still the easiest, most intuitive computers on earth. They don't get in the way of ideas, but help people to explore, expand - and

explain themselves. Macintosh computers help you ask difficult questions. Find elusive

answers and meet the many challenges of trying anything

new. Ultimately, Apple Macintosh computers help you get where you're going, even if the final destination is a place you never imagined at the start. On June 17th 1996, Burt Rutan realised his dream. When will you realise yours?

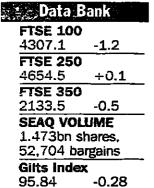
(Our guess is yours has nothing to do with learning how to use a computer.)

Give your dreams a chance.



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# Revolving doors send Emap investors into a spin



Share spotlight

share price, pence

Trocadero

30 NDJFMANJJASONDJF

Another senior manager has left **Emap**, days after David Ar-culus, twin architect of Emap's dizzy rise to media stardom. quit to become chief operating officer at Lord Hollick's United News & Media. News of Mr Arculus' de-

parture was enough to knock 687m. or 5 per cent. off Emap's market value, but the shares fell a further 20.5p to 749.5p vesterday on a weekend press report that Tom Moloney, boss of the consumer magazine di-vision, was also on his way.

The article proved wide of the mark, but fears that all is not well on the good ship Emap grew with confirmation that John Thater, managing director of Emap Media, had also resigned. He will replaced by Tony Harris, former boss of Emap Computing. There was even talk that Mr Arculus had poached Mr Thater, though United said it was unaware of any such appointment.

Management upheaval is nothing at Emap. Last year two rebel non-executive directors were thrown off the board.

Analysts said the latest de-fection was relatively minor, but they noted investors were using the latest upheavals in personnel as an excuse to take profits. Other media stocks bucked

the generally weak trend, helped by a report that ITV companies could see their annual payments to the Treasury halved by as early as 1999. Yorkshire Tyne-Tees, one of the highest licence bidders, firmed 125p to 1285p and Carlton advanced 17p to 541.5p while Scottish TV ended 11.5p bet-

ter at 652.5p. The FTSE 100, down 21 points at one stage, rallied to close above the 4300 mark at the day's best level, down just 1.2 at 4307.1. The recovery mirrored that on Wall Street, which opened almost 50 points



MARKET REPORT PATRICK TOOHER

adrift before moving back into other banks, notably HSBC, owner of Midland Bank, which fell 30p to 152p despite re-porting full-year results at the

positive territory.
Turnover was heavy at 1.44 billion shares, boosted by share buy-backs in Yorkshire Water and Southern Electric. NatWest was the main talk-ing point after its after-hours

revelation on Friday of a £50m hole in its options trading book. The shares were the poorest blue-chip performers, shed-ding 27p to 731.5p on hefty vol-ume of 14.5 million. HSBC James Capel changed its recommendation on NatWest to hold from buy, while even NatWest Markets, its own in-

vestment banking arm, prefers Barclays or Lloyds.

top end of the range. There were signs of further switching into Standard Chartered, up 24.5p at 866p, for its Far East exposure. Abbey National was also in the doldrums, losing 6p to 749.5p as Goldman Sachs said sell and rival US investment

cautious stance. Away from company results, football shares largely mirrored clubs' weekend perfor-

bank Lehman reiterated its

Blackburn sent the shares tumbling 15p to 717.5p while Loftus Road sank 6.5p to 65p as its First Division QPR lost at home to Oldham. Tottenham Hotspur dipped a penny to 114.5p after losing at home to Nate Forest

Notts Forest.
AIM-listed Trocadero was shoved a penny higher to 40p. Disappointing results since its a retail and entertainment emporium was opened in London's Piccadilly last year has led to profit downgrades, but the stock is being tipped by Leeds-based broker Redmayne Bentley as a short-term recovery play. Having recently bought Enid Blyton, the company with the rights to the children's book characters, a demerger

could be on the cards. The broker also likes Dana Petroleum, up 1p at 20.5p. Dana has big oil assets in Rusrestment banking arm, prefers mance on the pitch, sia which are expected to be pended. All three sarclays or Lloyds.

Sunderland's 1-0 defeat at felput at 28p a share, though with new nominated ad Adverse sentiment affected low Premiership strugglers in three years this could rise to or face expulsion.

56p on expected production of 20,000 barrels a day. The main downside, of course, is politi-cal risk. But shares in fellow Russian explorer JKX Oil & Gas slumped 40p to 59p as the market reacted badly to Friday night's news of a £14.2m rights issue and lacklustre results.

Two companies fell for US suitors. Forward Group at-tracted a 230p-a-share offer from PCB Investments valuing the printed circuit board manufacturer at £129m. The shares shot up 61p to 225p. And headhunters Michael Page fell into arms of Interim Services Inc. who made an agreed bid for a staggering £346m. The shares closed at the 550p offer

tional and Loox were suspended. All three must find new nominated advisers soon

Thour days after announcing the deal. VideoLogic finally got round to formally telling the Stock Exchange about a £15m investment by Japanese electronic giant NEC in its PowerVR game developer programme. The shares closed 2.5p higher at 63p af-ter touching 68p.

The blizzard of deals at MAID continues. The on-line information provider has teamed up with the South China Post to design and implement its Internet business. service to be launched in the second quarter. MAID will get undisclosed annual fees, subscriptions and royalties. But the news, and support It was a bad day for AIM stocks as dealings in Alpha Omikron, Chartwell International Chartwell Internations of the stock fell in the news, and support from Merrill Lynch, did nothing to stop the share of the stock fell internations of the stock fe last summer, the stock fell 8.5p to 170p as worries persist about the level of this year's profits.

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## business

# Reasons to be cheerful about the recovery's future prospects same forces at work here. The economics team at HSBC mar-

encouraging ones as far as the UK is concerned.

It is always comforting to economy watchers when some-thing you think intuitively ought to be happening has in fact started to do so. We are just starting to get two pieces of evidence which suggest the recovery may be able to carry on longer without hitting capacity restraints and pushing up inflation. The evidence is, to be fair, pretty thin, but if it is right it is huge-by encouraging. The longer the recovery can be sustained, the more manageable potential worries like the size of the pub-

lic sector deficit become. The first bit of evidence concerns investment, the second. wages. Let's start with investment. In previous economic businesses have tended to invest at the wrong time: they would wait until the factories were running at full tilt or they needed more office space, then start planning. The result was usually that the factory would be ready just in time for the next downturn and the office blocks would sit empty for the next five years.

in the present cycle, however, they seem to have wised up: instead of increasing their investment at the wrong time they have not increased it at all. Result: pessimistic predictions that the economy will run into capacity constraints, inflation

will start to rise and so on. There has, however, been an optimist's response to this, which is to say that the nature of investment in a predominately service economy is quite different from a predominantly manufacturing one. Investment in service industries, which one exception, is largely in intangibles, things which are difficult to pick up in the formal investment figures, like staff training, development of human capital, new work practices which may make more use of existing equipment, and so on. Even in manufacturing, investment now

urprise, surprise – and from investment 20 years ago this time a couple of Things are smaller (power stations are a good example) and the lead times are much shorter.

The exception is IL Services are IT hungry. Look at one of the great boom areas in services, the growth of over-thetelephone insurance and banking. These are easy to set up in that the technology is available off-the peg and the know-how is established. But the electronic kit is expensive. So you would expect service industry investment to be rising, even if man-

ufacturing investment was not. That does now seem to be happening. Some work by the economic team at Kleinwort Benson shows the extent to which service industry investment has picked up in the last year. On the left hand graph can be seen the familiar tale of depressed manufacturing and construction investment right through the recovery, and a surge in investment by the pri-vatised public utilities (much of which probably represented a catch-up after years of under-investment). For the first part of the recovery, service industry investment was stagnant, but since the trough at the beginning of



Hamish McRae

It is important to remember just how wrongly this recovery has been read. Most thought sterling's devaluation

would result in rapid inflation. It didn't

Service sector investment climbs

1993 it has been climbing steadily. Compared with manufacturing, where investment has been rather weak, it has shot up. as the right-hand graph shows. The Kleinwort team believes we are on the verge of an investment boom, which I suppose on past performance is a bit of a sell signal: as soon as

the investment boom is truly under way you can be sure the next recession is not far behind. But whether we are or not, it seems a reasonable proposition that investment in the service side of the economy will not be a serious constraint. And, of course, the service side is the motor of growth. The other encouraging fac-

tor is pay. The issue here is at what level of unemployment do labour shortages become serious and wage rates accordingly soar. Last week, Alan Greenspan noted that the sense of insecurity in the US was helping to hold down pay rises, but at some stage tightness in the labour market will impact on pay. JP Morgan is forecasting that US unemployment, at present 5.4 per cent, will fall to 4.8 per cent this summer. We surely have some of the

Ratio of investment\*

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kets have looked at expectations for wages growth each year for the past four years and point out that every year pay has turned out lower than forecast. This year, they believe, will be no exception. They argue that, while conventional indicators suggest that wages ought to rise faster, there are several reasons why they probably will not. These include: the fact that wages are already growing at 4.25 per cent in the year to De-

cember, which is delivering a decent real wage increase; headline inflation turning out at 2.75 per cent, well below the consensus: pressure on exporters from higher sterling which will encourage them to hold down wages; and determination by the new government to hold down pay in its first year. Their conclusion: pay this year rising at 4.25 per cent, the same as last year. The evidence for this second

encouraging thought is thin. But it feels right. Insecurity, for all its unpleasantness, does carry economic benefits. Indeed, the only justification for it is if it really enables the country to run at a much lower level of unemployment than would otherwise be the case. Looking ahead, a change of government may increase the sense of insecurity, rather than diminish it, though do not expect that to be in the

New Labour manifesto. It is important to remember just how wrong people have been in reading this recovery. Most economists thought the devaluation of sterling would result in rapid inflation. It didn't. Most expected a long lag be-tween the first signs of growth and the first falls in unemployment. There wasn't, Most expected the current account deficit to widen as the recovery

got under way. It narrowed. And now most expect the recovery soon to hit constraints in capacity and in the labour market. Maybe they will be wrong yet again.

# The man who has the best ticket to France '98

Martin Trees has left software group Sema, where he was group director, to join computer outsourcer EDS as director for marketing and strategy, and he will be taking his football role with him.

Mr Trees was responsible for the sponsorship of the IT systems for the Euro '96 football championships, and he will do the same job again for EDS in the next World Cup.

-We'll be delivering all the systems - ticketing, an Inter-France '98. net site where you can book your travel arrangements, the lot." Mr Trees said.

Sema got into football sponsorship, he said, because although it was one of the UK's leading computer systems companies, "nobody knew us". He is happy to report that Sema did not receive the same "unfortunate coverage that IBM got for their problems at Atlanta". Euro '96 was

relatively glitch-free. Mr Trees, 38, started out with a zoology degree from Nottingham University: "It means I m good at dealing with animals." He had a spell at Burroughs before 10 years at IBM, which he describes as

a "great company". As a Leeds United supporter, Mr Trees described his decision to move from Sema to EDS thus: "If you're struggling with Southampton or Middlesborough, and you're invited to play for Manchester United, you'd be rather foolish to ignore it." So what's his tip for France '98? "I'll be delighted if England make it to the finals. I'll think there'll be an

Where is Simon Robertson off to, now he's resigned from the chairmanship of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson?

African upset as well."

With typical sang-froid, Mr Robertson went skiing last week as the row with the German owners reached its peak. Mr Robertson wanted the bank run out of London the Germans, not unnaturally, wanted it run out of

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



African upset: Nigeria, Olympic champions, could turn pundits expectations on their head for France '98, says Martin Trees

Frankfurt. Auf Wiederschen, Mr Robertson, Insiders put the odds of this City heavyhitter's new home as follows: Barings 2-1, ABN Amro Hoare Govett 3-1, Goldman Sachs 5-1, Morgan Stanley 5-2, with Bear Steams as the

outside i. Wherever he ends up. Kleinwort die-hards are worried that the bank's fabled in-house banqueting facilities may fall foul of Teutonic cost-cutting following his departure.

Even the bank's Fenchurch Street canteen is run by the Roux Brothers, and you can drink as much as you like. The new puritanism of the 1990s has so far passed Kleinwort by.

City myth has it that the Roux Brothers' contract was written into the acquisition of Grieveson Grant by Kleinwort in the 1980s Big Bang by the director. Sir Nicholas Redmayne.

But perhaps these fears are misplaced. I hear German bankers are rather fond of top grub. The company that bought the Roux Brothers, Compass, also has the con-

Industrial Metals

tract to supply in-house eats to both Morgan Grenfell and their German masters,

Deutsche Bank. Maybe it's because of all that pickled cabbage our German cousins have to eat at home...

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Ronnie Frost. chairman of Hays, the distribution and office services group. Mr Frost was not around for Hays' interims announcement yesterday as he was in hospital for a double hip replacement operation.

Apparently Mr Frost has had a gippy hip for years, a legacy of his previous career as a champion hurdler on the athletics track

He's due to be out of hospital by the end of the week, when he will be able to return to his large farm near Guildford, Surrey, to recuperate, although he ll be confined to the Range Rover for the time being if he wants to survey his rolling acres.

John Willcock

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# business travel

# Back from the future

The pace of change for business travellers is quickening. Simon Calder takes a

leap to the year 2000 to introduce this three-page special report on business travel

LATE CHECK-

INTERACTIVE TELEVISION

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**ROOM SERVICE** 

FREE MORNING NEWSPAPER

**BARS WITH SKY SPORTS** 

**EXECUTIVE ROOMS** 

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You tap your pecket, and feel in response the reassuring rattle of a few euros: no problem, then, with parking the electric car. You stroke some keys on your electronic organiser, and the start of your itinerary takes focus. "March 4, 2000: Virgin Cross-Country Express from Oxford to Birmingham International. Lufthansa flight from Birmingham to Newcastle." There follow a stream of digits that make perfect sense to you: your Virgin Freeway card number, reminding you that the 60-mile train trip gets you that bit closer to that free balloon trip (not piloted by Richard

Perhaps the most surprising thing about the future of business travel is - with the exception of the thorny question of the single European currency

that the scenarios mentioned either exist already or are highly likely to be in place within

frequent-flyer programme.

Britain's rail network, desperately run-down after decades of under-investment and years of uncertainty over privatisation, is now entirely in private hands. Some of the new operators, notably Virgin (responsible for Cross Country and West Coast InterCity services), and GNER (the East Coast route between Scotland and London), are focusing on the needs of the business traveller. As Cathy Packe describes below, frequent-traveller schemes are proven to work wonders for customer loyalty among airlines, and links with terrestrial transport have

Hang on, though, what is Lufthansa doing flying between Birmingham and Newcastle anyway? Simply exercising its rights under the EU's principle of cub vage, that's what. For the these two aviation giants is past few months. British business travellers have been able to enjoy the German airline's jet service between the two the partners are obliged to British cities, just as flyers between Prestwick and Stansted

Branson); the six-digit code that entitles you to board the flight to Newcastle, and another code that reveals your application for an Australian business visa has been successful; and the good news that this UK domestic flight on the German national carrier will trigger your upgrade to the next level on the United Airlines

already been forged with the likes of BA's Air Miles scheme.

Global partnership is the key to growth of the the airlines frequent-flyer schemes, which is why a short hop on Lufthansa can earn long-haul rewards on an American carrier. You won't. by the way, need to show a visa to get into Australia later that month, nor a ticket to board the Newcastle plane later that day

Is this the age of the train? For the business traveller who appreciates city-centre convenience, privatised operators and Eurostar could fill the gap travel on an Irish airline. Britain

four weeks from today, any European airline will, in theory, be able to fly on any intra-EU route it chooses. Don't get too excited, though, about this glimpse of the future. Before you start checking the schedules for the Alitalia Glasgow-to-Heathrow shuttle, or the BA link between Barcelona and Bologna, bear in mind that such developments are, as always, dependent on slots. By 2000, the Heathrow

Terminal Five enquiry will barely have finished. Europe's - this year Australia is busiest airport will still be at full capacity, leaving little room by 2000) the German airline will for new arrivals. True, the ment are likely to be those in players at Heathrow could look carriers using ticketless travel. very different three years from and Istanbul. Already there

is, as usual, ahead of the avia-

tion liberalisation pack. But

likely to have gone through -in some form. The big question is the scale of the pay-off that make to other airlines, in order to satisfy competition rules on

both sides of the Atlantic. from Heathrow. The trend is AA/BA will not be allowed to acquire dominance on routes, and business travellers are likely to be the beneficiaries.

If AA/BA wants to operate a near-hourly shuttle service between Heathrow and New York's JFK, then the alliance will have to surrender slots to other carriers to ensure proper competition. Continental (presently restricted to Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester), United and Virgin are all likely to benefit from increased access to the "world's favourite" airport. The transatlantic traveller can expect greater competition and enhanced value.

The "losers" of this arrangeare signs that British Airways is freeing up slots at Heathrow by shifting less lucrative traffic to Sussex. In a fortnight, all BA's Latin American services are moving to the airline's hub at Gatwick, and by the time the new summer schedules take effect on Easter Sunday, BA (and its franchise partners) will offer a wider range of destinations from Gatwick than

likely to continue, with more marginal routes going south to allow for strengthening core services - and giving away slots to the opposition.

With a bit of luck, the short-

haul traveller in 2000 could be able to ignore Heathrow (even with its new fast link with Paddington) altogether. The long-promised through-trains linking UK provincial cities with Brussels and Paris are likely to begin in June this year; with night services deeper into Europe following later. These will tap into a high-speed Continental rail network that will transform business travel between city pairs under 500. miles apart.

By December this year, Brussels will be only 85 minutes from Paris. The business traveller who has come to appreciate the city-centre service offered by Eurostar will soon be able to avoid airport queues and tedious transfers for many European journeys.

The search for a room fit for the new millennium could be less revolutionary, however. The big development for guests at business hotels over the

simple one: you pay more. Not only have "rack rates" (the official tariff) risen, but the proportion of business travellers obliged to pay them has climbed too.

Personal experience and ment. anecdotal evidence from other travellers suggests that quality has not increased at the same pace. Much more often than I would expect at the fag-end of the 20th century, I have to perform considerable electronic surgery on the hotel telephone in order to connect of high carnings in upgrading their product are likely to be in the future.

Gazing at the world in 2000 once more, it is surprising at how little some things have changed, The aircraft that remains the backbone of most long-haul fleets, the 747, is little changed from the Boeing that entered service in the 1960s.

Concorde still zaps back and forth across the Atlantic a

past five years has been a of a supersonic successor. In contrast, telecommunications fly around the globe at the speed of light, but predictions that technology will do away with the need to travel on business are still far from fulfil-

High-speed ISDN links, allowing low-cost video-conferencing, have become much more widespread among UK business. But like the spread of the telephone a century ago. new technology seems to stimulate additional travel rather than reduce it.

iny computer with base. Hotels And how might all this travel which invest the present harvest be bought? The Internet has yet to take a grip, not least those that maximise business on the World Wide Web in the late Nineties have not proved entirely satisfactory. The big business travel agencies have built upon their buying power and international links to extend their grip on the market. At the other end of the market scale, small niche agents who know their customers' requirements intimately are thriving too. The toughest question couple of times a day, but she about the future of business is looking increasingly geri-atric - with no immediate sign currency will we use?

# Maximising the benefits of frequent-flyer schemes

Cathy Packe

Ladies and gentlemen, we don't have enough food for everyone, so we are offering the choice of a turkey sandwich or

500 frequent-flyer miles." No, not the scene in one of Sainsbury's cafes on a busy Saturday: this was the in-flight announcement on a recent – and completely full – Northwest Airlines flight from Minneapolis to Denver. Confirmation, if any were needed, that these days frequent-flyer miles are an important way of keeping the

passengers happy.
Frequent-flyer programmes began in America, and the idea was taken up by British Airways in the mid-1970s. Initially, BA was content with formalising bonuses for commercially important passen-gers with its Executive Club. for which passengers paid a fee. Gradually, though, European

airlines developed reward systems based on distance and class flown. As the manager of one programme said. "It was like a domino-effect. Other people had frequent-flyer schemes, so we all had to have-

All the airlines are convinced there are benefits for them in running such schemes; they believe that lovalty schemes of this type increase the overall number of passengers travelling and tie people into a particular airline and its services. Virgin Atlantic talks of a sense of ownership among its members and identification with the company. A scheme's membership list helps an airline to of five UK business travellers.

build up a detailed database, provide. If, for example, you have disclosed in a questionnaire that you like skiing, you could expect to be presented with a ski magazine as you are settling into your seat; perhaps more likely, though, is that you will be targeted by direct mailshots for skiing holidays.

For anyone who travels even a modest amount, frequentflyer schemes provide an opportunity to get something for nothing. Assuming you are going to spend a bit on air travel, car hire, or a night in a hotel, you are well on your way to a free flight. But as with any form of investment, there are ways of maximising your assets, whether you are a holiday flyer or long-haul business traveller.

First, choose your scheme carefully. The advice from the airlines is join the scheme of the carrier you use most. I suggest you join several, but choose them carefully. All the airlines have reciprocal arrangements with their partners, so you should only join one scheme in a group. For example, SAS and Lutthansa are partners. So if you are a member of the SAS cheme, and then you fly Lufthansa, you will earn points on your SAS account simply by showing your membership card: there is no need to join the Lufthansa scheme. In fact it is counter-productive to join both as, in effect, you dilute your

The annual Carlson Wagonlin business travel survey shows the British Airways Executive Club to be the favourite of four out Flights are graded to earn you points towards silver and gold membership, which in turn brings separate benefits such as use of the special lounges with silver, free insurance with gold. But the way in which you earn frequent-flyer miles involves a rather complicated tie-in with Air Miles, which is a British

Airways company, but operates as an independent loyalty scheme. BA doesn't see the collecting of miles as the main point of the Executive Club. Indeed, the scheme is easily the least tolerant of reduced fares. If you travel on a discount ticket you get no frequent-flyer miles at all. Whereas most airlines allow you some miles simply because you got on the plane, if you have anything less than a fully-flexible ticket you earn nothing on BA. In you earn nothing on BA. In fact, you could more profitably spend the weekend at Sainsbury's. There are signs

that BA's policy is spreading, with United planning to thin out rewards for discount fares. The emphasis on customer service to reward loyalty is certainly the main objective in many schemes, particularly in America, where the big rewards, in terms of preferred seating, automatic upgrades, or carly boarding, as well as free miles. are given to a small group of serious flyers: Gold Elite on Continental, Advantage Gold on American, or Delta's Flying Colonels. The airlines will try hard to keep these high-yield passengers.

For a really frequent flyer, amassing points of miles which contribute towards free flights can be a mixed blessing. What as they might be.

could be nicer than a free ticket to Australia? Well, if you have spent most of the year flying around the world, possibly a weekend at home. Here, alternative benefits such as Virgin Freeway's luxury UK holidays or Air Miles' cinema

tickets can be tempting. Should travel prove too much of an addiction, then be warned that even unpopular routes may not be easily available. I have just tried to book a ticket to Greenland using SAS frequent-flyer miles. This, in theory, is a textbook example of how to maximise the benefits of free tickets, by choosing a route where discounted fares are never available. When I expressed disbelief that the flights were already full every day between early July and the end of August, I was told that they were simply not open to those travelling free. But with some perseverance. I found a

seat to Sondre Stromford.
Too complicated to be worth
the effort? Well, a friend of mine recently took a return flight from New York to Washington. He earned points in both directions. It was his eighth flight of the month, so he got a bonus. The plane was late in both directions, which earned him two more bonuses. By the end of the day he had enough for a free flight across

By the way, you don't earn frequent-flyer miles on flights which you paid for with frequent-flyer miles. Well, officially you don't. But sometimes the people on the check-in desks aren't as vigilant

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# Still a Far Eastern star

Hong Kong's future as a top destination is bright, says Simon Calder

We all know what will happen on 30 June this year: Britain will hand back sovereignty of Hong Kong to China. The former UK colony will become a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic. But changes will affect the business traveller both before and after that date.

Within the next four weeks there will be two big develop-ments. From 31 March, Air China - the national carrier for the People's Republic - will start flights from Heathrow to Hong Kong. The airline will compete against British Airways, Cathay Pacific and Virgin Atlantic on the route. Although initially Air China will operate only three flights a week, the addition of another Boeing 747-400 is likely to stimulate better value for business travellers.

The first Air China passengers will arrive in Hong Kong on the morning of 1 April - the day that British travellers lose some of their special privi-leges. Hitherto, UK citizens were free to stay for up to a year without formality, to take up employment or to open businesses. From April, permission for visits of up to six months will still be issued routinely to British business and leisure visitors, but anyone planning to work or establish a business will need to apply for a visa - through, reasonably

enough, the Chinese Consulate. The view within the travel industry about the best time to go to Hong Kong is simple: unless your work obliges you to be there around the time of the handover, avoid it. In the weeks leading up to 30 June, Hong Kong-bound planes are full, as

10 N. N.



Trouble ahead?: A businessman caught out in a shower runs for cover in Hong Kong. Business preparing themselves for the handover to China in June this year

diately after the handover are unlikely to see any serious business done, as the territory marks its transfer to new ownership

with a week-long party.
Once into the first long, hot summer under Peking's control, everything goes quiet in terms of bookings. The autumn could be the ideal time to visit Hong Kong and assess the changes. But anyone who has suffered the shambles that is Kai Tak are most hotels. The days immeairport in Kowloon may wish to

wait until April 1998, when Hong Kong's old airfield should be replaced by a state-of-theart facility on Lantau Island. Chek Lap Kok airport will be further from the central business district, but a high-speed rail link will get you to Hong Kong Island in 25 minutes and, with a much greater likelihood that your aircraft will be parked at a gate rather than a remote stand, overall journey times and the hassle factor as a trading hub for East Asia,

should fall once the new airport and the present frontier opens. The investment for Chek between the territory and the Lap Kok is often cited as a sign of good intent for the future. According to the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984, there should be no reason why travellers to Hong Kong should not transact business as usual. A degree of self-government is enshrined for half a century under the agreement; equally assured is Hong Kong's position

People's Republic. Pekingwatchers may reasonably ask what is to stop the new Chinese leadership varying the terms of the agreement; the business community would respond by asking what is to be gained from jeopardising the unique geographical and economic position of Hong Kong? Interesting times, indeed, for the people and the visitor. For more information, call the

Hong Kong Government Office visa and documentation hotline on 0891 600111; or the Hong Kong Tourist Association on 0891 661188. Both these are 50p per minute.

# Services are more in tune with women's needs

You're on a business trip, but you have a free evening so you decide to go out to eat. The restaurant is half empty, but you are shown to a table in a far corner, between the doors to the kitchen and the loos. Then one of two things happens: you are either completely ignored, or whisked through your meal at indigestion-inducing pace. At times like these, the travelling businesswoman must wonder why people can't treat her more

Of course, men don't enjoy eating on their own in restaurants either, and it's easy to mistake general poor service for bias. Top-class restaurants and hotels are far more likely to treat businesswomen well than somewhere that hasn't considered the needs of any of its customers for several decades. The best meal I ever had on my own was in the Taj Hotel in Bombay, where I was seated in a good position with a clear view of the musicians and dancers.

and treated with great courtesy. Simonetta Veltroni, who works for an advertising agency in London, agrees that it's the four-or-five star hotels that are more likely to consider the needs of women on their own, "Often about the only thing I notice is that the toiletries are sometimes more geared towards men - there's no moisturiser, for instance." There's no doubt that at least some hotels are making more of an effort to cater for their female guests. Lesley Thomson, director of a market

research company, comments, A good place is the Victoria and Albert in Manchester, which recently opened a wing of rooms for female guests with 24-hour closed-circuit TV and windows that can't be opened from the outside. It also has ironing boards and toiletries and loads of magazines in the rooms. You can either respond to that by saying 'Bloody hell, they're treating me as a vulnerable girlie', or you can say that it's actually quite thoughtful. Person-ally, I think it's quite thoughtful."

the policy is to reserve certain rooms near the lifts for women executives who don't want to walk to the end of a descried corridor. Security is a big concern, so staff are careful not to call out guests' room numbers or hand over keys without identification. A spokesman comments, "We are much more attuned to the needs of ladies travelling on their own than

even just a few years ago."
But could they be doing better? Airlines, hotels, travel agents and so on all rely on feedback from customers to help them improve their services. and women are often reluciant to complain on the spot when

6 Hotels are getting used to the idea of a lot of women travelling on business 🤊

something doesn't please them. Yet many of them feel that they get a raw deal compared with their male colleagues: a survey by Chambers Travel, a corporate travel management company, showed nearly half the women questioned believed men received better treatment from cabin staff, for instance.

"Trying hard - could do better" is the view of David Radeliffe, managing director of the leading independent business travel company Hogg Robinson. "The industry and my company are very aware of the needs of women travellers, and working hard to meet those concerns.

It is still difficult to shake off the view that the industry is focussed firmly on male travellers, especially when you see television adverts for airlines that only ever show the men being pampered by beautiful cabin

At Inter-Continental Hotels, do with showing how much ne policy is to reserve certain legroom there is; no dainty hands puffing up her pillow.

Receiving equal treatment with men isn't the only difficulty businesswomen often face. There's the sheer feeling of vulnerability that can come when you're in a strange country where attitudes to women are not the same as at home. The best way to alleviate the loneliness of being in a strange place is, of course, to team up with someone else. The Global Network (0171-722 9565), set up by a woman with 20 years' experience of business trips, can team up women who will be in the same place at the same time. Women Welcome Women (01494 465441) is not solely for business travellers, but members can find it useful to have contacts in cities they will be visiting for their work. Pat Daniel, a university lecturer, found it invaluable when she was in New York last year researching a book. Although she stayed in a hotel, she found the social contact made evenings much easier to deal with. It gave a completely different side, the human side of New York, I just felt that, yes, New York could be a welcoming

Men get lonely on their own in hig cities, too, but they're less likely to have to put up with unwanted attention or endure out-and-out harassment from someone they've inadvertently made eye contact with. No wonder many businesswomen often eat in their rooms and spend evenings reading books or watching TV. Room service can bring its own problems: it's almost inevitable that your order arrives just as you step out of the shower. Check through the spyhole (insist on a room with one). Better still, ask to be rung when your order leaves the kitchen, so you don't get caught out (they do it at the Victoria and

Albert in Manchester). Thomson is quietly optimistic about the future: "Hotels in particular are getting used to the idea of a lot of women travelling on business - but they can be staff. Helen Mirren has to make patchy in how they approach it."

# Contrary to popular belief size isn't everything.

f you have a small travel budget some people would have you believe that a large business travel company will

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# Airlines improve level of giveaway offerings

ahead, the detail of your business-class perks can assume riveting proportions. There is plenty of time to check out the inflight freebies. So, how well

are you being served?

Fly Upper Class with Virgin Atlantic and you can enjoy upgraded pampering. At least, that's the theory behind the "multi-functional comfort kit" introduced in August 1996. Clearly a great deal of money and attention have been lavished on developing it. as neither Virgin nor Neal's Yard. Covent Garden (whose products the kit contains) were and more one size fits noone.

Icelandair takes a more bags containing various ingredients sold at Neal's Yard

retailed for around £15 each. selected remedies from Neal's meals" - and the pack itself,

Philippa Czernin samples the freebies passengers can receive from their favourite carrier

Yard, which might compare turned inside out becomes a favourably with your own bathroom shelf. The fat-handled toothbrush fits comfortably in an adult hand and the eye mask is cotton, an airline rarity. Only the socks, like those on most other airlines, seem to have escaped the designer treatment. With no heel, it's less a case of "one size fits all"

Icelandair takes a more prepared to say how much. minimalist approach. They However, a selection of travel provide the bare essentials. and encourage you to ask for other bits if you need them. But you can keep the air-hostesses A black pouch, lined with at bay by sticking labels onto green satin, unzips to reveal a your eye masks - "do not funky orange box holding disturb" or "wake me for

tote-bag so you can carry off your freebies with insouciance. Some airlines' amenity kits distinguish between male and female passengers. British Airways provide a razor and shaving gel for him and Body Shop cleansing milk for her but in a move to equality both kits have rehydrating aromatherapy face sprays to relieve dry skin and gel with essential oils to neutralise cabin

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But inflight style isn't every-thing. With El Al Israel Airlines you get inflight entertainment too - you can while away the hours with a tiny shoe polish kit and make funny faces into the strangely distorting mirror. The

reflection in it could be an advantage if the flight has left you red-eyed or not feeling at your best. A note in the pack provided by United Airlines gives you a chance to learn how to say razor, sewing kit and earplugs in nine different languages and with toothpaste, toothbrush, mouth wash, gargle, and toothpick with floss all included you can give your teeth the sort of extravagant hygiene treatment of which your dentist would approve.

When you fly business-class you'll find that most airlines have woken up to your interests and are well aware of the signals that the design and content of your free kit send out. Expensive, named-brand lotions and potions are fast carefully and they whisper an advert for the airline: "You are in good hands". But bear in mind you or your company are picking up the tab - there's no such thing as a free tooth-



# How the famous secretly move round the world

How do the rich and famous do it? As quickly as possible, often and secretly, apparently. Travel

When you're a Spice Girl, an ex-Princess or a Gallagher brother, travelling on business becomes a military operation. Business travel for celebrities is, it seems, a minefield of screaming fans and ever-present paparazzi, with no chance whatseever of browsing through the paperbacks at WH Smith. With nine licenced photographers allowed to walk "airside" beyond customs - at Heathrow and Gatwick, you're not even out of danger in the VIP lounge.

Fortunately, there are a number of specialist travel agencies on hand 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year, which will help smooth your journey, so that all you have to do is worry about which dark glasses to wear. Exactly who is on their books is however, a more closely guarded secret than the date of

the Gallagher-Kensit nuptials.
"Our biggest selling point is
discretion," says Andrew
Douglas of Travel by Appointment, a travel agency for people in the music and entertain-ment industry. "We might be privy to certain hotel arrangements for instance, and are

anything. It's vital that we main- celebrity that needs to be kept. says Newing, with the utmost

Alan Newing, travel manager for Trinifold Travel, another agency for the stars, is equally tight-lipped, "We have a very enviable client list," he says pointedly. "In fact there is no major UK or US act that hasn't all I'm saying." The Travel Company, which specialises in organising travel for the film industry imposes similar self-restraint, although the company does admit to having organised travel for the James Bond film crew two years ago.

silence, what do celebrities get that the ordinary business traveller doesn't? Private jets, for a struck travel agent's face. start. "The very high profile household names travel purely by private air charter with luxury facilities," says Douglas. although Johnny Hopkins, press officer for Oasis, maintains that the boys have been known to travel by train. "Sometimes it's the easiest way to travel and you get there quicker." British Rail's successors would be proud, but

So apart from a wall of

I'm not sure I believe him. programmes, so the star can be whisked from car to airport and

happy. Getting a star to their screaming teenagers is as impor-tant for the airport.

So, it's tough at the top, as the saying goes. But my bet is, it's harder for the travel agent. If you've painstakingly organised a band's World Tour, booked fifty crew members into hotels over several months, reserved entire hotel floors for one individual and organised everything from macrobiotic diets to oxygen tents in each destination, then re-organising the entire schedule when a leg of the tour is cancelled could presumably wipe the smile off the most star-

"Fortunately we've got very innovative technology," says Douglas. "If dates are suddenly re-arranged, our system will automatically fax the hotels and notify them of the changes. In this business everything is very last minute, anything can happen and the smallest error can be disastrous."

Which brings us to the noto-I'm not sure I believe him.

All the travel agencies have
VIP Meet and Greet ousiness? "As a person's back again with as little or as preferences, because they are much fuss as required by their have become more exposed to a wider range of possibilities,"

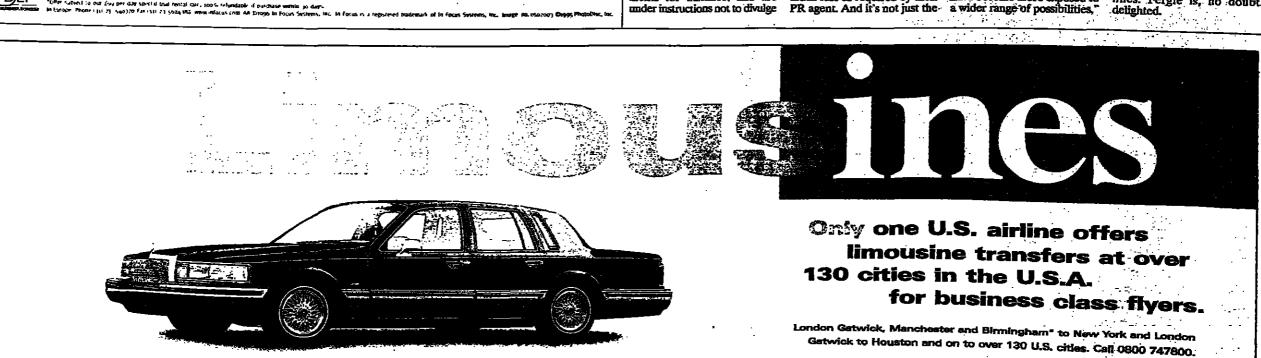
diplomacy. But you get used to plane without the terminal never taking anything for (1) being brought to a stop by granted. Someone can be a meat eater on one trip and a vegetarian the next, and you get it in the neck if you get it

So apart from being able to have tantrums over what you have for dinner, re-arranging your schedules at the last minute, enjoying the utmost luxury at all times, having your own private jet and being met at the airport at any time of the day or night, how does one the celebrity business travel stakes?

One way is if you are invited to be an American Express Platinum Card holder, which for the price of a celebrity hair cut (£375) will provide you with a personal account manager who can arrange for your shopping to be done without you having to leave the hotel and be mobbed and gives you special privileges and upgrades at more than 180 of the world's most exclusive establishments (although presumably, if you need upgrading, you haven't made it after all). For those who celebrity status grows they are have fame but not fortune, it can more able to redefine their also save you up to 40 per cent also save you up to 40 per cent on flights, hotels and cruise lines. Fergie is, no doubt,

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# Williamson joins the Richards squad

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The final prospective cast lists for the Cheltenham Festival arrived yesterday, and while the four-mile National Hunt Chase and the Foxhunters' - the last running before it becomes the Draghunters', perhaps? are among the meeting's less significant contests, the pulse still quickens at the thought that the best week of racing any country can offer is all but upon us. The more superstitious trainers - meaning almost all of them - have entered their pre-Festival purdah, which will generally be broken only to impart bad tidings, so the good news for backers with ante-post interests in next week's events is that, yesterday at least, the silence was

If all has gone to plan, most who took out his first licence in Man, twice a beaten favourite cates why it was Robert Parsons, of the main Cheltenham contenders will now have reached the peak of fitness, and the only al, the Hennessy, the Whitproblem for their handlers is keeping them there. For many jockeys, however, the rush to fill any remaining saddle-space in the principal events becomes more frantic by the day, and one of the most attractive spare engagements in the Gold Cup was booked to ride one of Gordon Richards's four-strong team.

Williamson, who won the race two years ago on Master Oats, will take the place of Brian Harding, who was last week banned from riding for a year by the Jockey Club's medical panel after suffering a seizure following a fall.

prising facts is that Richards, don't know for certain yet." One

victories in the Grand Nationbread and the King George VI Chase, has saddled just a single winner at the Festival meeting - Tartan Tailor in the 1987

Supreme Novices' Hurdle. He can hardly be blamed, then, for throwing aimost everything with four legs and breath snapped up yesterday when in its body into the Gold Cup. Norman Williamson was in which his runners will account for a substantial proportion of

"I have got four Gold Cup entries and four jockeys, Richard Dunwoody, Tony Dobbin, Paul Carberry and Norman Williamson," Richards said yesterday. "Norman Williamson may be on Unguided Missile and Paul Carherry may now be One of jumping's more sur- on Addington Boy, although I

1964 and whose record includes at the Festival, will be ridden by Richard Dunwoody, while Tony Dobbin, the Greystoke stable jockey, will partner The Grey Monk.

Dunwoody has long since stopped concerning himself with the riders' championship, but when it comes to the championship races, he is still the last month, and although he is wants to employ. His list of Festival engagements grew again yesterday when he was booked to partner Hanakham for Ron Hodges in the Royal SunAlhance Chase, providing other possible mounts, in Around The Gale and Cyborgo, do not

With just three outings under is not a name with which many glance at the form book indi- a long time."

take the field.

Dunwoody's agent, who was phoning Hodges yesterday, and while, there can be only one not the other way around. The destination at present. Mary eight-year-old shrugged off a 33-1 starting price to finish merous major victories to her within 12 lengths of Coome Hill and Unguided Missile, both Gold Cup contenders, in the Jim Ford Chase at Wincanton but given up trying. man every trainer with a vacancy also entered in the four-mile amateurs' race, the staying

"He'll come on a lot for the run," Hodges said yesterday. "He needed the race because he pulled some muscles in his back Foxhunters', but only if the on his previous start and was with Mary Bromiley for three weeks. He has no mileage on Rules to his credit, Hanakham's the clock and I think he'll run well at Cheltenham. He is the punters are familiar, but a best horse we have had here for

novice chaser's championship is

his likely destination.

For anyone seeking an antidote for Festival fever, mean-Reveley, like Richards, has nucredit, but success at Cheltenham has always cluded her but given up trying.

"I am not desperately keen on the meeting." Mrs Reveley said vesterday. "If you have a horse good enough to win it is grand but you need to have a bit in hand."

Cab On Target, once a fine staying hurdler, may run in the ground is good or faster, and while half a dozen others may go to the West Country, Marello, perhaps the best horse in Reveley's vard at present, was not even entered for the meet-

# Collier Bay may be in demand at 100-30

Bookmakers' ante-post lists are racing's futures market. Readers can catch up with the latest developments in this sphere - best prices are in bold - with The Independent's Tuesday service.

Champion Hurdle: Collier Bay is a top-priced 100-30 with William Hill - the Tote go 9-4 while Space Trucker is 7-1 (Coral/ Tote) - Ladbrokes go 11-2. Oucen Mother Champion

Triumph Hurdle: Shooting Light is 7-1 (William Hill) - the

Chase: Ask Tom is 5-1 (Ladbrokes) - Coral go 7-2.

RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

Tote go 5-1 - while Commanche Court is 12-1 (William Hill) - the Tote go 7-1 - while Kerawi is 10-1 (William Hill/Ladbrokes) Coral go 7-1. L'Opera is 8-1 (Coral) - Ladbrokes go 6-1.

Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase: Dublin Flyer is 10-1 (William Hill/Tote) ~ Coral go 7-1.

Champion I	łurdie	(2m 110	yds)	
Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William HBI		Tota
Coffier Bay (J Old)	11-4	100-30	3.1	9.4
Large Action (O Sherwood)	5-1	11.2	5-1	5.1
Space Trucker (Mrs.) Hamington)	7-1	13-2	11.2	7-1
Make A Stand (M Pipe)	8-1	7-1	8-1	8-1
Relikati (D Nicholson)	8.1	9-1	9-1	8-1
Pm Stipposin IN Prendergasti	_7-1	9-1	8-1	8-1
Boardroom Shuffle (1 Gifford)	12-1	10-1	10-1	14-1
Sammartino (D Nicholson)	12-1	14-1	14-1	10-1

Queen Mother	Cham	pion Cha	se (2m)_	
Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William HR	Ladbrokes	Total
Klairon Davis (A i. T Moore)	9-4	15-8	15-8	2.1
Viking Flagskip (D Nicholson)	9.4	5-2	5-2	2-7
Ask Tom (T Tate)	7-2	4-1	5-1	9-2
Strong Promise (G Hubbard)	9-2	9-2	4-1	5-1
Martha's Son (T Forster)	14-1	12-1	12-1	14-1
Arctic Kinsman N Twiston-Davies)	14-1	20-1	16-1_	20-1
Double Symptony (C Brooks)	20-1	doubtfui	16-1	16-1

Coral Cup Ha	ndicap l	<u>lurdle (2m 5</u>	if)
Horse (Trainer/weight)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes
Tullymurry Toff if M Jefferson/10st1	3toj <b>8-1</b>	8-1	8-1
Supreme Lady (Miss H Mught/10st	6(b) 9-1	8-1	10-1
Copper Boy (R Buckler/10st4lb)	12-1	12-1	12-1
Blast Freeze (N Henderson/10st-R	n 14-1	14-1	14-1
Conquering Leader (N Henderson/11st	61b) 12·1	14-1	14-1
Henrietta Howard (Mrs. D. Hame/Sst.13	3b) 12·1	14-1	12.1
Rawy (C Roche/10st4lb)	14-1	14-1	14-1
Allegation (M Pros/11st/5b)	12-1	16-1	16-1
House Captain U FitzGerakt/10st2h	bi 12-1	16-1	16-1

	II I I I I I I I I	e (2m 1f)	<u></u>	
Horse (Trainer)	Corel	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tota
White Sea (M Pipe)	11-2	6-1	6-1	<u>5-1</u>
Shoeting Light (P.G. Murphy)	6-1	7-1	6-1	<u>5-</u> 1
L'Opera (D Nicholson)	8-1	7-1	6-1	7-1
Kerawi (N Twiston-Davies)	7-1	10-1	10-1	8-1
Commanche Court (7 Walsh)	8-1	12-1	10-1	7-1
Stylish Alture (D Weld)	25-1	20-1	16-1	20-1

Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladorokes	Tot
Coome HIII (W Dennis)	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-
imperial Call (F Sutherland)	5:1	11-2	5-1	_ 94
Dorans Pride (M Houngan)	6-1	6-1	5-1	11.
Denoff (T Foley)	11-2	13-2	6-1	_ 6-
Dubtin Fiyer (1 Forster)			8-1	10-
One Man (G Richards)	8-1		10-1	10-
The Grey Monk (G Inchards)	10-1	_10-1	_ 10-1	10-
Addington Boy (G Richards)	12-1	14-1	14-1	16-
Mr Mulligan (N Chance)	16-1	12:1	14-1	12-
Suny Bay (C Brooks)	16-1	14-1	16-1	16-3

Grand National Ha	<u>ndica</u>	<u>Chase</u>	(4m 4f)	
Horse (Trainer/weight)	Coral 1	William Hill	Lagbrokes	Tote
Coorse Hill (W Dennis 10st6ib)	10-1	<u>8-1</u>	<u></u>	8 <u>-</u> 1
Lord Gyllene (S Brokshaw, 9st 13lb)	12-1	10-1	10-1	<u> 12-1</u>
Surry Bay (C Brooks 10st3lb)	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-3
Antonin (Mrs S Bramall/95113lb)	16-1	16-1	18- <u>1</u>	_16-1
Seneral Wolfe (T Forster/9st8/b)	16-1	16-1	14-1	12-1
Avro Anson (M Camacho/10512lb)	_20 <u>-1</u>	20-1	20-1	20-1
Dublin Flyer (T Forster 12st)	20-1	16-1	-10-1	16-1
o Stregone (T Tale/10st4fb)	20-1	20-1	20-1	16-1
Maamur (T Forster/10st4lb)	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Setmont King (P Nicholls/10st1lb)	25-1	25-1_	20.1	2 <u>0-</u> 1
Wylde Hide (A.) T Moore/9st13th)	25-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2	3, 4 (Am)	nee. Salumba.	5 4pm?? - wat	מעתפל

# Wyer's Dashing progress delayed

The ride on one of the leading candidates for the Arkle (Novices') Chase could be on the market if Lorcan Wyer cannot satisfy himself that he is fit enough to do the horse, Simply

The luckless Wyer, who had been back in action for only 11 days after three months on the sidelines with a broken jaw and pelvis, suffered his latest setback when the same horse that had caused the earlier injury, Thornton Gate, fell in the first race at Doncaster on Saturday,

2.00 Obvious Risk

2.30 Ashgrove Dancer

ed under-10s free). CAR PARK- Free

3.00 Hee's A Dancer 3.30 Fiveleigh Builds

He was briefly knocked un- be riding at Catterick. I'm crossconscious and has tendon damage to his left arm.

Now he has had to postpone a planned return to action at cause things had gone well his participation in the Chelsince my comeback. I had four

tenham Festival in doubt. "I don't think it would be fair at Cheltenham," Wyer said yesterday. "So I must ride by the weekend really if I'm going to make it to the Festival.

"I've been having physio-therapy, but I definitely won't

ing my fingers that I'll be back towards the end of the week. "This latest thing is only tem-

winners from nine rides." Strong Promise, the Queen to anyone to make a comeback Mother Champion Chase hope, has also been entered in the Cathcart Chase. Chris Kinane, assistant to the gelding's trainer, Geoff Hubbard, said: "It is only a precaution in case he fell early in the Champion Chase."

Before the Lord Mayor's Show comes the Imperial Cup (Handicap Hurdle) and although Saturday's Sandown race suffers by its proximity to the Cheltenham spectacular next week, it re-

mains one of the year's most competitive handicap hurdles. It also offers a £50,000 bonus from the race's sponsor, Sunderlands bookmakers, to the connections of any horse that can add next week's Vincent O'Brien County Handicap Hurdle to Imperial Cup success. Moody Man was the last

FORM GUIDE ASHGROVE DANCER were off at 200-1 at Newcastle last time but he'd be a short price to was this after finishing strongly to take second behind the in-form and improving Bobby Grans.

Ashgrove Dancer has almost an extra mile to cover today - but most of the others face an resingues benear has emisse, an euro may to cover today - our most of the others size an even bigger step up in distance and Ashgrove Dancer should have the necessary stamma as he won a point-to-point in liesand a couple of years ago. Riveleux was a remote severnh behind Break The Rules at Haydock (2ml 11 days ago, but he finished third of 22 in a Sandown bumper first time on a respectures and is a half-brother to several winning jumpers. We can't.

have seen the best of Riveaux, who must figure more prominently over this longer too in a much weaker race. Not of the others could well be Allerbank, outclassed by Riveaux's sta-blemate, Military Academy, last time at Ayr but not without a chance nere judged on his ear-lier steying-on fourth behind Swarbister, also at Ayr. Like Riveaux, Sovereign Passe was accurably beasen at Haydock lest time, but his stoth of 15 behind Absoluty Equations sug-tests his its improving so he stellar consistence.

3.00 TEVIOT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,600

- 6 declared -

BETTHRE Breas Real Tools, 6-4 Hee's A Dancer, 5-1 Moss Pageent, 25-1 Nijway, 33-1 Childsway,

FORM GLIDE REAL TONIC can bounce back following his heavy fall first time over fences at Newcestle. Today's opposition is far from formidable and he must be difficult to best with a clear round. Heat's A Dancer can take advantage if Real Torno is found wanting. He was rated higher than Beat Toric over hundles telthough the Greystoke horse could have gone on to bester

stungs in that sphere) and made a brighter start to his chasing career, finishing second to Singing Smid. In a notices' handicap at Musselburgh. Mose Pageant took on experanced handicappers at Catterick last Tuesday and, although there were only four finishers, his sec-

ond to In-form Wester George from when carrying 22/bronze than his true handicap weight was a much improved performance. Moss Pageant has not had much chance to show what

3.30 ETTRICK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 3.30 3m 4f Penaity Value £6,775

BETTIME: 2-1 Act The Wag, 9-4 Court Melody, 11-4 Parsons Boy, 13-2 Physiologic Builds, 14-1 Call

50-1 Cardinal Shaner 1998: Wasser George 6 11 3 M Dwyer 5-1 (J A Hellers) 10 san

QC501.F REAL TONIC (18) (8F) Probet Option G Richards 7 11 1 41-6402 REE'S A DANCER (20) (N F B Nicholson) Mes I, V Russell 5 10 7....

horse to complete the double in fore he won last year's County 1990 and this year Star Rage who won the County Hurdle last tra days' rest this year." year - may make the attempt.

Sandown will be Star's first stop

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Copper Thistle (Leicester 4.20) **NB: Live Project** (Lingfield 3.40)

Jimmy Harris, his trainer.

make a decision later in the week but Shining Edge won't run in both races." his trainer. Tim Easterby, said. The Queen Mother Cham-

Hurdle so he will have two ex-

Among Star Rage's rivals at

Sandown could be Shining

Edge, also a County entry, who

beat Harris's tough hurdler at

Doncaster recently. "We'll

said: "Star Rage is in good form.
We are aiming at that bonus. He won at Carlisle the Monday be-

[	4.00	YARROW HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 adder 2m 6f 110yds Penalty Value £3,418
1	42/5-65	DISCO DES MOTTES (FR) (31) - Roset Dezem G Raterito 6 12 0
2	2117-04	UAST REPUGE (24) Mins V Chingai T Carr E 11 6
		BLAZING DANN (78) U S HEEDO) J HAROUS 10 11 0
		GRAND SCORENY (28) (Scores Secretaing Partiering ) J.H. Johnson 9 10 11 _A Dobbi
5	3315-52	JASON'S BOY (10) (IV E Jones) J Brade; 7 10 8
6	0.04433	RISKY DEE (10) Clames Heptura V Thompson 6 10 0 D Bende
_		

Minimum weight: 10st. The handings weight Rkly Ose 3st 12th.
BETTRUC: 6-4 Dison Des Notices, 6-4 Jason's Boy, 4-1 Grand Sessiony, 6-1 Last Refuge, 10-1 Risky Des, 20-1 Bizzing Desm.
1896: Cross Carron 10 11 10 7 Reed 11-1 tl A Helens, 9 tan

DISCO DES MOTTES commands respect even though he has been well beaten in handscap hurdles at Wetherby. He was fated much higher in those hurdles than he is in this hand-icap chase, so the well find it easier to give away weight. Two outries in February should ensure that Jason's Boy is fighting fit and Milton Bradery must have him to his living to send him all the way from Wales. Although he has not really sparked this season, Grand Scenary has run the odd race that suggests he can make his presence left. Pulled up in the only race he had last season, Liest Refuga was probably still in need of the run when fourth to Ruber in an amatieurs' hurdle at Cattenck. He might do better now he's back over fences and perhaps over a more suitable timp.

Selection: DISCO DES MOTTES

4.30 GLEN NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 6f 110yds Penalty Value £2,320 ......R Jones

A Dobbin

- 9 declared —

- 9 declared —

- 9 declared —

- 9 declared —

- 12-1 Cestie Red, Doonagale, 25-1 Homelope Spring, 45-1 Absolutely John, 50-1 others

1996; Shallow Reer 5 11 2 R Durwoody 2-1 (R Colens) 13 ran

FORM GUIDE

mas, Lagen Bridge faced an even tougher task at Chepstow 17 days ago and emerged with credit, finishing 5th behind Boardroom Shuffle, Mighty Moss and company in the Persian Wer. Lagen Bridge is back in a run-of-the-mill nowice event today and his class gives him a chance of delying the double penalty. Sir Bob is an obvious danger as he's filb better of

5.00 TELL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3m 3f Penalty Value £2,783

Minimum weight: 10st. True Handicap weight: Soloman Springs 9st 12tb.

BETTING: 4-5 Squart Approach, 5-2 Plearate, 5-1 Master Of The Rock, 6-1 Soloman Springs, 25-1 No. 1996: O'Aroky Street 7 10 0 S McDougal 14-1 NV T Norman 8 ran

FORM GUIDE FORM GLIDE

SMART APPROACH was besten by 1½ by Phistoric at Catterick in December but since then was the only one to make a race of in with Share Options at Catterick two races ago and was clearly up against a fast-improving type in roung Kenny at Wetherby last week. Master of The Rock has finished last in the two races he's had since he won at Mussel-buigh in January last year and the three month absence doesn't help. Master of The Rock is not badly handicapped and John Mackie and Eugene Husband had a minner (Star Selection) on a recent trip to Scotland, With second favourite Barton Heights nurning badly, Soloniams Springs, 6d not achieve trush when second to 1½ no a few nurse pradicion at Cartanck.

tion) on a fectors trip to account, trip is second to Tifty in a fine-numer handings at Catterick man Springs did not achieve much when second to Tifty in a fine-numer handings at Catterick se familian

# LEADING JOCKETSE P Niver — 48 winners, 38 rungers, 23.4%, 44.01; A Dobbin — 28 winners, 149 rides, 18.5%, +£47.38; B Storey — 38 winners, 189 rides, 16.6%, -£27.38; M Moloney — 13 winners, 67 rides, 19.4%, -£27.76. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Blood Bruther (2.00), Calltin Caper (2.00), WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Court Melody (3.70) has been sent 387 miles by P Nicholis from Direlect. Somesset; Jeson's Boy (4.00) sent 325 miles by J M Bradley from Sed-bury, Gruth. 2.00 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,867 60-6060 CULLIN CAPER (43) (RT Wasson) T Watson 5 10 4

KELSO - CONTRACTOR OF THE PERSON OF THE PERS

■ Undulating course. Run-in of two furloags.
■ Course is N of town off B6461. ADMISSION: Club £10: Triterralls £7 (OAPs £4, ac-

B LEADING TRAINERS WITH BUNNERS: Mrs M Reveloy — 36 winners from 123 runners gives a success ratio of 29.3% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$2.55; G Richards — 22 winners, 107 runners, 20.6%, -\$18.73; J H Johnson — 15 winners, 77 runners, 10.3%, +\$33.33; G M Moore — 13 winners, 58 runners, 23.4%, -\$4.65.

HYPERION .

4.00 Jason's Boy

4.30 Lagen Bridge

Minimum weight 10st, True handless weight Blood Broo 10-1 Britishince, 12-1 Blood Brother, 14-1 Callin Cape -1998: Jomore 7 11 5 C McCormeck 11-4 (Ms M Reveley) 13 ran.

FORM GUIDE
STOPMING LORNA was only a length and a quarter behind Arthur Bee in the Casterick race
won by Silver Mun. That was only her second run back after a mid-senter break and a per-formance which suggests she is capable of winning a race of this sort. Amonaka second to
Krenzhern at Catterick in January (Arthur Bee third) shows he is not a lost cause but subsequent efforts have not been so good. Barton Heights has been running poorly, too, but he locked off the season with a solisfactory third to Kerno Sabo at Newcadle. Obvious Risk was 12th out of the handical when talled off on soft ground at Wetherby last Thursday, a race that came only three days after he'd finished third of 18 behind Latin Leader at Newcastle. Blood Brother was tailed off in one novice hundle and pulled up in two other such er was tailed out in one novice hurdle and pulled up in two oth

LEVY BOARD NATIONAL HUNT MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS 2.30 EVY BOARD TRAINING THAT THE PROPERTY PARTY VALUE £2,091.

1 46 ALERDANI (21) IC Storpy Mis J Storey 5 11.5 Mr C Story 15 1.5 Mr C Story 16 1.5 Storey 5 11.5 Mr C Story 16 1.5 Mr C Story Mis J Storey 5 11.5 Mr C Story 16 2.0 ASHGROWE DANCER (17) Report United (Lungo 7 11.5 Mr Storey 3 0 0 FF. PPC BUSY BOY (7) (Exors of the team Mr R R Lamb) D Lamb 10 11.5 J Be 50 0 FF. PERCURS (B) (S) Prescripting 5 11.5 Mr J Storey 5 11.5 Mr J Storey 16 11.5 Mr J Storey 17 11.5 Mr J Storey 18 11.

1998 Abbey Lamp 7 11 5 P Carberry 5-1 (J H Johnson) 16 ran

LEICESTER

2.20 Teeton Mill (nb) 2.50 Eastern River 3.20

iONG: Good (Soft in from of stands).
Right-hand, unchloring course, Run-in of 250yda.
Right-hand, unchloring course, Run-in of 250yda.
Resident Stan SE of city off Ab. Lekesster station (Landon, Standships).
Rusident Stafficki into Jun. ADMISSION: One enclosure \$9 (OAPs

Parairas - Shefficial lane) 2m. ADMISSION: One enclosure and (OAPS 5/7). Free case courds. CAB PARE: Free. Silver Ring Car Park - 5/12

SLINKERED FIRST TIME: Note.

WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Highlandman (3.50) & Tumlin Oot (4.50) have been sent 251 miles by 18 Baldane from Kelno. Berders: Prudent Peggy (2.50) sent 222 miles by R Frost from
Burkfusileigh. Devon.

2.20 OSBALDESTON MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

12 ARCTIC CHEL (832) No. R Viciny 7 12 7 Mass S Viciny (7)
2457 CHERRY ISLAND (859) H Laws 9 12 7 Mar N Brudley (7)
2450 COULT BALOS U KADO 8 12 7 Mar N Brudley (7)
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OMMOND WIND COLUMN STREET SALES 9 12 2.

2.50 LISCESTER & DETSY AMPTEUR HCAP CHASE CLASS F; £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

PACES DOLLINGS (7) (9) Tolches 10 11 10 Line R Front (5) 20076 (4) M Impuse (10) M Courbe 12 11 5 Lists M Courbe (7) 50076 PRIZE MATER (29) Tour 8 10 9 Line M Impuse (10) M Courbe (11) List M Courbe (12) Course (13) M Courbe (

[3:22 DESIGNED (12) (2) 的 TROW 11 11 10 ...

4.50 Jack The TD

Ha Express 3.50 Corner Boy 4.20 Elmore

### FORM GUIDE but he wan both races in the style of an improving stayer. He should run well under a penal

3.20 MELTON HUNT CLUB HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

P2F511- NOVELLA TOPPETSS (299) Miss C Spearing 8 12 5 .....

8 4U426Q: YOUNG NEWROD (590) (D) Mrs D Greek 10 11 10 .

0/35/21- BUSMAN (305) k R Peace 8 12 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Mr 0 5 James (7) 25/21-73 PRO BORD (18) A Morgan 7 12 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Mr A Samcoun (3) 21 TRAFIST LAD (13) M Roberts 12 12 1 \_\_\_\_ Mr P Maching (3) 35/R23U- 10/MEALDA RAMBLER (340) (0) Mrs H Hervey 13 11 10 \_\_\_\_

- 6 doctared -SETTING: 13-8 Minelin Express, 7-2 Regumes, 9-2 Kambalda Revoluter, 11-2 Tellingt Lad, 6-1 Peo Bono, 12-1 Young Named

3.50 A C-BROWN & G PIDGEON HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £5,000 added 3m

1.ALIP(2 MYCSTOR (20) (b) Miss C Saurdes 10 11 7.Mr 8 Policis (5) 4119/2F CORNER 807 (418) (0) C Descri 10 11 7.Mr 8 Policis (5) 4119/2F CORNER 807 (418) (0) C Descri 10 11 7 Mrs J Desmos (7) 314/05-2 COUNTRY TARROGEN (21) (0) 7 Wellow 8 11 7 Mrs J Desmos (5) Mrs J Mrs Regental (7) Mrs J Mrs Regental (7) Mrs J Mrs J Mrs Regental (7) Mrs J M

P/223-6 PEALADE (31) (D) Miss J Women 13 11 7 Alles J Worsell (7) - 7 declared - 13 1.7 Alles J Worstell (7) - 7 declared - 8ETTMR: 2-1 Avactor, 9-4 Country Terrogra, 5-2 Corner Boy, 14-1 Gies Oak, 18-1 Green Archer, Pesjade, 38-1 Highlandsson

4.20 GARTHORPE MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 3m

479- COPPER THISTILE (307) N Pomints 9 12 5 July B Humbhold (7) 0799' BLINDRIS (1195) M Roberts 10 12 5 July P Handling (3) (0689) GARRYTUICAS (1,028) / Lorres 11 12 5 July 6 Handling (7)

9 deciered BETUNK: 15-8 Copper Trintle, 7-2 Electre, 4-1 Pentet, 9-1 Mitchelin Best, 10-1 Carrylanes, 12-1 Ollerdale, 15-1 The Difference, 25-1 others

4.50 THRUSTERS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 1f

| ALIP-1 BEMS DAMON (27) Mes C Sanders (0 12 8 Jbr 7 Martes (7) |
| FA44300 CORLY-SFEELD (SEX) Mes S Sour (0 11 10 Jbr 6 January (7) |
| FA44300 CORLY-SFEELD (SEX) Mes S Sour (0 11 10 Jbr 6 January (7) |
| AMPTY PRODUCTION (SEX) B Summers 14 11 10 Jbr 14 Continued (7) |
| HOW FREEDOLY (1032) D Dugger 7 11 10 Jbr 14 Rosended (7) |
| HOW FREEDOLY (1032) D Dugger 7 11 10 Jbr 14 Rosended (7) |
| AFLICO P AMPERICAN (2038) | Continue 9 11 10 Jbr 14 Rosended (7) |
| SURVIN (SOURCE MARKER (2028 (LOS 91 11 D) Jbr 14 Rosended (7) |
| DOGFO TEMBER (804) H Holyd 10 11 10 Jbr 14 Rosended (7) |
| OUGSTO TEMBER (804) H Holyd 10 11 10 Jbr 14 Rosended (7) |
| OUGSTO TEMBER (804) H Holyd 10 11 10 Jbr 14 Rosended (7) |
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| OUGSTO TEMBER (805) H HOLYD (805)

14

EFTIME: 13-6 Bass Dandy, 9-2 A Windy Citims, 6-1 Nowhiold, 7-1 Cory by Special, 8-1 Coppulate, 14-1 How Priendly, 29-1 Jack The Til, Manter Carcine, Memorantes, 53-1 others

QU CAPPAINE (S) D Williams 9 11 5 As M Discussion (S)

Or MICHELLES CRYSTAL (700) F Mathews 6 11 5 July L Brown (7)

M11P-1 BENU DANEY (27) Mass C Saunders 10 12 8 July 7 Martis (7

950U-PP MASTER BOSTON (% Old K Oldhem) & Woodhouse 9 12 0

412/0-42 CALL THE SHOTS (42) (687) (John Whole) / Wede 8 10 0 ...

um weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Call The Shots 9st Sb.

ty sites beating Stoney Burke and Stormy Coral (winner of his previous two) at N ny arrer osaung stoney bune and Stormy Coral (winner of his previous two) at Newcastle last week. The gound was good when Parsons Boy won at Carlistie and Haydock before Christmas but in a bugher contest like the Eider he probably needed some cur. He has some give in the ground today and it would be no surprise to see him bounce back. There must be a chance that Court Metody can justify the long journey from Somerset because his third behind the progressive Lord Gyllene at Utbocker received a real boost when runner-up Mudahim went on to win the Recing Post Chase at Kempton, Although he's back in form lids. has rarely run beyond three miles so you just have to wo

### LINGFIELD

2.10 Eager To Please 2.40 CAPTAIN'S DAY (nap) 3.10 High Five 3.40 Royal Carlton 4.10 Superi-

GOING: Standard, STALLS: 51 & 1m - outside; rest - mide.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best in sprints.
Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp including course.
Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served b London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members 5.17
Family Enclosure 59. CAR PARK: Club 53; remainder free. SIS CHEE

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

EES IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Captain's Day (2.40) won here on Tuesday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Live Project (3.40) has been gent 270 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, N Yurks. 2.10 TENNYSON CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 5f

- 9 declared -BETHIG: 11-4 Engire To Plane, 7-2 Toronghay, 4-1 Blanc Magic, 5-1 Spatisling Edge, 11-2 Mar Matter Possipus, 8-1 Lumar Music, 14-2 Rystol Coursy, 33-1 Met Out Lad 2.40 KEATS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 2f

- 8 doctored -BETTING: 8-4 Captain's Day, 6-1 Secot Suppope, 11-2 Principater, 6-1 Paley Knight, 8-1 Bekens Douglann, 10-1 Micross, 12-1 Dignott, 20-1 Rehands

3.10 SPIRIT OF CHAMPIONS HANDICAP (CLASS

3.40 COLERIDGE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m

0-20223 ROBELLION (14) (CD) D Amustrox 6 9 12 ...... b Hamison 1 V 1-14156 ROYAL CARLTON (4) (CD) G L Moore 5 9 11 . .5 Whitworth 7 216000- ETHBAAT (USA) (181) (D) M Heaton-Elis 6 9 9. ...... A Clark 4 66060-5 WORLDWIDE ELSE (35) (D) 1 Campbell 4 9 2.... \_\_\_\_T & McLauddin 5 461530- ALLINSON'S MATE (95) (CD) I D Banon 9 9 2.... 

SETTING: 5-2 Royal Carlton, 11-4 Robellon, 5-1 Deeply Vale, Live Pro ject, 8-1 Allinson's Mate, Worldnide Elsie, 18-1 Ethbusi

4.10 WORDSWORTH LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 031-515 RAWN (31) (C) (BP) G Nellenay 4 9 8 ... 100-046 SUPERIOR FORCE (33) (CD) Mass B Standers 4 9 8 ........

25/400-0 OCEAN STREAM (34) J L Eyro 4 9 6 ...... Down Micke 0360-64 PERILOUS PLIENT (31) (CD) Mrs. L. States 6 9 6... Jl. Fallon 4 (00345- LA PERSEUCHE (309) Lord Huntangson 4 9 3 ...... D Harrison 8 – 8 declared –

BETTINE 3-1 Superior Force, 7-2 Tulgenosia, 4-1 Parlious Plight, 5-1 Road 8-1 Statistician, 12-1 Ki Chi Stata, La Permohe, 14-1 Ocean Stream

4.40 SHAKESPEARE AMATEUR RIDERS' HAND-ICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 5f .\_...... (4) Sheen (4) 2 26121-2 HEIGHTH OF FAME (20) (CD) (SF) I Hemerion 6 11 7...

3 100065- GOLD BLADE (RS) (C) (D) J Pearce 8 11 0..... Mrs L Pearce 7 014/102- SMINGING SDITTES (306) 6 L Moore 6 10 8 ... 6 60-4134 ENGLISH PANADOR (10) (CD) C Dayer 6 10 5.... 552-040 STALLED (10) (C) P Walkyr 7 10 2..... (6000A) RAY RIVER (588) K Wington: 5 9 9 ...... Mrs H Mooran (4) 4

/4553 CLASSIC ACCOUNT (11) (CD) J L Eyes 9 9 1 .... 10 33-0634 DORT DROP BOMBS (USA) (18) (C) D Thom 8 9 0 ... ....Miss J Feilden 5 Y

- 10 decimed -Minimum weight Ski, True handkap weight Don't Drop Bombs Ski 12th. BETTING: 4-1 Hattactich, 9-2 English Invester, 5-1 Heistels Of Faces, 11-2 Lold, 8-1 Classic Account, Swinging Sidies, 12-1 Dun? Drug Barries, Stalled, 14-1 Gold Stade, 16-1 Ray River

### RACING RESULTS WINDSOR

2.20: 1. NODDADANTE (M Grittriss 16-1: 2. Rhuzard 10-1: 3. Hello Me May 25-1. 4. Jay Ben Eris, 6-1 g tay. 24 rmt. 6-1 g tay Restard. 1-5. N. Macroelli, Taker 128/00; 12. 60, 129. 10. 129. 10. 11. 11. 129. 10. 15. 16. 15. 10. 129. 129. 10. 129. 129. 10. 12 £4.00. FF: £17.80. CSF; £48,94. Troc £30.40. NR: Lona-Sal, Net Valley.

3.26: 1. MR INVADER IC Llowelpm 11-2: 2. Fast Thoughts 13-2: 3. Vicosa 9-2. 8 ran. 5-2 by Barmown Bill (Sun. 3, 9, IN Gast-leat Tota: £7.00; £2.00. £1.50. Ff. £9.20. CSF: £39. T1. Tracss: £155.76. Tro: £2.50. NR: Rhoman Fun.

3.55: £1. LORD ROBBLE IP Hidel 4-5 tar. 2. Cheeley Charles 50-1; 3. Letton Warmor 33-1. 9 ran. 3. 6. 9 Girdon. Tota: £1.59. £1.20. £4.10, £6.70. DR: £14.40. CSF; £58.62. Troc £209.40: £1208.86 carned forward to Leuce-ter 4.50 baday.

4.25; 1. CAPO CASTANUM (Mr A Wrde) 9-2;

O Loday, NR: Hicketton Lad, Pro Boro. 5.00: 1, STORM TIGER (Chrs Webb) 14-1: 2. Footbaneys 7.2. 3. Derisbay 20-1; 4. Boyfriedd 12-1, 17 tam. 3-1 tav Theme Arabin 12-1, 17 tam. 3-1 tav Theme Arabin 12-2, 11-2, Jacipot: No. wor. 2006. to Lecester Inday. Placepot: £1,100.00. Quadpot: £101.80. Place & £509.11. Place \$: £346.34.

DONCASTER

DONCASTER
2.00: 1. SMEET TRENTINO (M Marson) 16-1;
2. Just Supposen 33-1: 3. Cuttbroat Md 8-13 fav. 10 ran. 24, rd, M Tatel. Totas £19,50;
2:50. £540, £1.10. DF: £298.30; CSF:
£377.35. Tro: £65.40.
2:30: 1. SMUAR BAY (M Brennen) 13-2; 2. Final Beas 5-1; 3. Monicasman 1.3 fav. 3 ran.
2. 7. (O Brennan), Totas £4,40. DF: £6.40, CSF:
£21.37. MRs: The Caption's Wish, The Weatherman.

121.27. NRs: The Caption's Wish. The Weatherman.
3.05: 1. HRSHBEATH (P Niver) 7-2; 2. Jol. by Boat 7-1: 2. Aretic Sandy 9-4 for, 9 ran. 11, 7. (Mrs M Reveloy). Totas: 13.40; 11.50, 21.60; 11.40. DP: 213.70; CSP: 128.65; 71 csp: 160.11. Tho: 120.60; 3.35: 1. SPRING BALE II Ostorne) Evens for, 2. Charley Lambert 11-2: 3. Chapmell Drapas 7-2. Pran. 17., 10. 05 Servicold, Totas: 11.0, 11.50, 11.70. DP: 16.00, CSP: 16.65. Tho: 13.70, Mrs. 13.70. QP: 16.10, 11.50, 11.70. DP: 16.00, 4.05: 1. SHLY MOMBY (R Garmto) 11-2: 2. Above The Cut 16-1; 3. Beausmort 11-4 for, 4. Western General 10-1; 15 ron. Nix, 17. (T Eastern General 10-1; 15 ron. Nix, 17. (T Eastern General 10-1; 16.70. CSP: 18.0, 17.10. 11.50. [1.3.00]. DP: 157.70. CSP: 18.76. Incast: 1279.63. Tho: 151.90, NR; Menalti.

4.40: 1. SLIEVENAMON MIST (A): 1 Jules: 11-8: 2. Driving Force 20-1: 3. Double Collect 12-1: 11 ran. 5-1 fa: Sheet Jest (pulled up): 20. 11. A/ctor Dermail: Tota: 22-50: £1.10. £4.70: £2.50: £7: £2.30. (SF. £2.37. Tot. £30.30. 5.10: 1. ARDROM (J. OSDOME): 6-1: 2. Jestice One 6-1: 3. Membelth Offenderm 6-1.

2.10: 1. RIVER CAPITALIN (S Sanders) 10-1; 2. Stretching 25-1; 3. Tentad 5-4 En; 1.3 rtn. 27., "-0. Murray Smm), Toter £15-9; £2.40, £11-00, £1.40, £1. £455.20, CSF: £230.83, Tro: £168.70; £2.38 carried toward to Leces-ter 4.50 today. r 4.50 loday. 2.40: 1. GREENSPAN IA Clari! 8-11 fer; 2. Dancing Cavalier 7-2; 3. Soldier Mak 3.1. 4 ran. 8, 3. (W Mur). Totel: £1.70. DF: £2.30. CSF. £3.42. L ROAD RACER 0, Faton: 6-1.2. Co-

3.46: 1. STATE OF CAUTION (15-month) 5-1: 4-207, 1. In DUICE VITA WASHIN APPEND 6-4 (a): 2. Jack The Lad 11-1: 3. Red Em-bers 10-1. 9 ran. 9, nd ri D Barroni, Teta: £2,30; £1,20, £1,10, £2,80, DF. £1,100 CSF: 17,96 Time £44,90 NR: Zalareli, 4-50; 1. GRESAITE UD Humanii 9-1; 2. Curtain Carante £2,-2. Sade 2, 14: 9 Cara

117.86. Thro: £44.90 NR: Zalareli. 4.50: 1. GRESATTE Un Humanni 9-1; 2. Ceptain Carparts 9-2; 3. Soda 7-1 fax: 9 ran. 2, 2. U Dwyen; Tota: £9 50: £1.90. £1.10. £1.60. DF: £21.40, CSF. £49.27. Turast-£98.98. Tino: £156.00: £79.14 carned torward

\* THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 972 982 LINGFIELD 973 0891 261 970

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# The French will not take easily to rugby's new free market and the English Channel will prove more impassable than the Irish Sea

At the beginning of the Five Nations' Championship, I invested (as the bookmakers like to put it) £100 on France to win the competition at 15-8. England were odds-on favourites, After an hour at Twickenham on Saturday, with England up by 20 points to six. I was saying goodbye to my money and thinking the bookmak-ers were not such fools after all.

But then, I told myself, I was the victim of bad luck - or, rather, of the French team's bad luck. How could I be expected to know that Emil Ntmack. Thomas Custaignède, Philippe Saint André. Olivier Roumat and Philippe Benetton, to name but a few, would all be unavailable for one reason or another? As things turned out, their absence (with the possible exception of Roumat's) did not make

much difference. Indeed, some of them may find it difficult to effect re-press conference. What would be the

entry into the French side. Presumably the ideal centre pairing is now Castaignede and Christophe Lamaison. The new wings, David Venditti and Laurent Leffamand, did everything that was asked of them. In fact, Leflamand did a little more by stealing the ball from Tony Underwood who combines the blessing of great speed with the curse

Castaignède is reportedly off to Newcasale, meanwhile continuing his engineering course at Durham University. Whether France will con-tinue to pick him in these circumstances remains to be seen. Jean-Claude Skrela, the French coach, was asked this question in

French attitude towards players coming over to perform regularly in the Courage Leagues? He seemed slightly embarrassed and answered that they would meet that problem

when they came to it. But the problem is already there. though only in a small way as yet. Philippe Sella of Saracens has retired from international rugby. Laurent Benezech, Laurent Cabannes and Thierry Lacroix, all of Harlequins, have not retired, as I understand the position. Admittedly the first two are in the evening of their careers, but Lacroix is in mid-afternoon.

The Scots have always been at ease with English-based players. The lrish are becoming more so. Indeed,



their indigenous players have been crossing the Irish Sea with the ease and rapidity of the old Celtic saints. "Bishop" Brian Ashton holds the po-sition in rugby formerly occupied by Saint Jack Charlton in football. The English used shamelessly to pick South Africans who happened to be

at Oxford University for a couple of years, but have now relinquished the practice. The Welsh, traditionally the most nationalistic country in the British Isles when it came to rugby, now pick three players from Rich-mond in Allan Bateman, Scott Quin-nell and Craig Quinnell, and have chosen Nathan Thomas of Bath as

The French may in time have to become more broad-minded, because there is more money floating around in south-east England than in south-west France. There is certainly more money in south-east England than in south-west Wales. Thus Saracens seem able to shop for players until they drop, while a great club such as Llanelli have to claim supplementary benefit.

The French are the most chauvinistic of nations, even more so than the Welsh. They rarely venture even on holiday outside their native land, and why should they? My guess is that they will not take easily to the new rugby free market, and that the English Channel will prove more im-

sable than the Irish Sea. At the moment, however, they do not have to worry very much. Saturday demonstrated their reserve talent. They clearly do not have to worry any longer about an outside-half. Having won the first of his 27 caps in 1992. Alain Penaud of Brive is still only 24. His large number of appearances is mis-leading, for he has been unaccountably dropped several times in favour of inferior performers, notably the eccentric Christophe Deviand of Toulouse.

Moreover, France now seem to have at last a top-class management in Skrela. Pierre Villeprent and Jo Maso. They were all great players as well. Now, great players do not always make great coaches or great managers. Sometimes they are no longer much interested in the sport which gave them their early fame. Formerly great batsmen usually prefer a day at the races or a round of golf to an afternoon at Lord's, and who shall blame them? Skrela, Villepreux and Maso are not like this

It is a joy to see Villepreux at last honoured in his own country. And if France beat Scotland, he will have

# Stewart close to right formula

**Derick Allsop** talks to the former world champion, who now owns his own grand prix team, as he looks ahead to the season's start in Melbourne on Sunday

e may be standing some-where towards the back of the grid, a diminutive figure lost in the blur and anxiety of the pre-race ritual, but there is unlikely to be a more emotional or satisfied man basking among the cars about to be unleashed in the Australian Grand Prix on

Twenty-three and a half years on, Jackie Stewart will be back on a Formula One track, this time as a team boss rather than a world champion driver. And this time, he concedes, the pressure and responsibility will be far more intense than anything he experienced along the

path to three world titles. "Nothing you go through as a driver compares with this." he said. "When we eventually line up for that opening race in Melhourse, it will be the culmination of an almost super-human effort by everyone in the team. And, certainly, from my point of view, it will be the single most important race of my career.

"Responsibility is the biggest difference between driving and running your own team. It's a big weight, a heavy burden. But then I've always been a responsible, conscientious person. I'm desperate to deliver no matter what I'm doing. Maybe that is part of the reason I've enjoyed the success or achieve-

ment I have had." The package Stewart and his son. Paul, have put together, including a five-year "factory" deal with Ford, represents another successful chapter in the remarkable Stewart story. Achieving success in terms of results will, he stresses, be an even greater challenge and the Scot acknowledges there are those who would sayour a down-turn

in his fortunes. Stewart, not unlike many achievers in all walks of life, is both admired and envied, and

7.30 (INESS STREET
LEG QUARTER-FINALS FIRST LEG
Anderlecht v Internazionale
Tenerife v Brondby (9.30)
Schalke 04 v Valench (7.45)
Newcastle Utd v Monaco (8.0)

FIRST DIVISION
Barnsley v Swindon (7.45)
Barnsley v Swindon (7.45)
Brimingham v Wolves (7.45)
Chariton v Queen's Park Rangers (7.45)
Crystal Palace v Bolton (7.45)
Huddensfield v Orford Urd (7.45)
Ipswich v Bradford City (7.45)
Oldbam v Transmere (7.45)
Reading v Norwich (7.45)
Sheffield Urld v Port Vale

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Sheffield U.D. v rox, var.
SECOND DIVISION
Brentford v Wycombe (7.45)
Bury v Shrewsbury (7.45)
Chesterfield v Luton (7.45)
Peterborough v Walford (7.45)
Walsall v Bristol City (7.45)

wassa v Sresos Gry (7.45)...... THIRD DIVISION Brighten v Northempton (7.45) Carriste v Torquey (7.45) Exoter v Barnet (7.45) Wigan v Hardepool (7.45)

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE Halifax v Hadnestond (7.40)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: League of Water XI v League of Ireland V 17,301 (at Leckwith stadium, Cardiff).

Statement, Calomiter Statement, Calomiter Statement Statement of Crusaders (at The Oral, Bestast); Glenloran v. Portadown (at Windsor Park, Belliast).

Beffast).

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Behop s Stortford Memory Borough, Brombly v Kingstoner; Heytundge v Chertsery, Hischim v Orderd Ch. (7.45); Heytundge v Chertsery, Hischim v Orderd Ch. (7.45); Hord v Dutwich (7.45); Element v V Kolescher (7.45); Gellenday v Wokingham (7.45); Hermston v Tosong & Middram: Marlow v Aldershot (7.45); Bedond Dwisjon: Dording v Leaffenhaad: Egram v Water (7.45); Leigton v Whenhoe (7.45); Metropolitan Police v Cother Row & Romford (7.45); Windows & Elon v Chestuart (7.45); Windows & Elon v Chestuart (7.45); Windows & Elon v Chestuart (7.45); Windows Barking (7.45).

LINBOND LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Chor-LINBOND LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Chor-

Football

sympathy out there in the wild grand prix jungle should he be

He said: "I don't understand this undercurrent but it seems to be an issue in Formula One. I just think it is part of the business and motor racing is famous

Stewart admits there were times when the demands of assembling a Formula One team plunged him to "the depths of despair", but then he never anticipated a straightforward

"Whenever you climb a high mountain, you are going to get off the path occasionally, on to

### 'Everyone has accused me of under-playing honestly haven't'

around the world, sitting wait-

There's always a doubt until the contract is finally there." Stewart maintains he has absolutely no doubt his team will be hard pressed to cajole one of their cars to the finish in Mel-

a couple of points all season.

he knows he will find little

- TODAY'S FIXTURES

"You look at the top teams. they've all got factory car manufacturers and the experience. mauled and devoured. Williams and Benetton have Renault, McLaren have Mercedes, Ferrari have their own engine. Then you have Jordan with Peugeot, Prost with Mugen-Honda, Tyrrell with a very good

Others want to pump up

championship in five years, but

I can't expect us to be there any

The task of delivering for

Stewart has been entrusted

with the Brazilian, Rubens Barrichello, and Denmark's Jan

Magnussen. Both are considered gifted, but flawed, young

Stewart is evidently hoping to

turn the doubts about their

commitment and discipline to

offered a second take, I

wouldn't change them. They're

gelling well with each other and

with the team. Rubens is very

driven to improve his fitness and

knows his career is on the line.

And Jan knows the jury's out for

"There comes a time when

you say: 'Who am I? Are they

Ford V8 and now Sauber with their expectations and image, but I don't feel that is the way to go. I've never made false projections. What do I say if it doesn't work out? I hope to be in a position to compete for the

our position but I

ice, snow or loose rocks, and that occurred in the creation of this team." he said. "We were always wearing a safety harness and had security in place, but you still have the concern that you are not going to be able to pull together all the elements. We've had people flying ing for those commitments.

bourne and to score more than

He said: "Everybody's accused me of under-playing our position but I honestly haven t. To finish top six twice in the year would make me satisfied. That's not trying to con, that's reality. Few have done it straight away. Not even Williams. And now it's more difficult than ever.

v Harrogale Town, League Cup feurth-round replay: Radcliffe Borough v Accunggon Stan-tey, President's Cup second round: Runcorn v Barrow. Second-round replay: Worksop v Blyth

PONTINS LEAGUE Second Division: Man-chester City v Mansfield (7.0) (at Water Alberti: Rotherham v Hull (7.0); Wretham v Grimsby

CLUB MATCH: Oxford University v Oxfordshire (7.15).

SUPERLEAGUE Play-offs: Group A: Newcos-tle Cotras v Manchester Storm (6.30), Group B: Bosingstoke Bison v Sheffield Steelers (7.30).

BOWLS: Engish Women's National Indoor Cham-pionships (York).

BOXING: Professional promotion (Elebhant and Castel Language)

Rughy Union

ice hockey

Other sports

right or can I prove them wrong?' And you use all your energies to prove them wrong. I will be allowed more time than they will." Stewart looks forward to the

time when he might compete with his mentor, Ken Tyrrell, and the son of his old friend and sparring partner, the late Gra-ham Hill Damon Hill has been dragged down from his world title peak to join TWR Arrows and the others at base camp. For now. Stewart is content to watch the established teams scale the heights of the championship.



said, "I expect Jacques Villeneuve [Williams] to have the faster than Villeneuve. best chance of winning the championship. However, he'll have to be careful. A lot of drivers have done well in their first year and not quite so well in their second. There are a lot

"Heinz-Harald Frentzen [Williams] will also have the best car. and he'll be bright-eyed. bushy tailed, and full of energy. He is fast, no doubt. He has made the odd mistake in the past and, although he may not have to push so hard with the

have, he'll have to push to be got the most expensive driver in thorough journeyman, has won

"I think McLaren are going to be better than people think and Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard are both going to be potential race winners. David has been there before. He of banana skins lying around to knows how to win a race.

"Mika has never won a race. win the world championship never having won a grand prix before, but Jacques nearly did it, so it is possible, and McLaren have a good record of knowing how to do it.

"Ferrari's prospects depend

the world in Michael Schumacher, who is the best in the world. No question. They've got the most expensive team manager, factory and test track, and yet for 18 years haven't won the world championship, so something's wrong. You cannot keep going like that without It would be unlikely for him to recognising it's not been

correctly executed. "But they'll get it right even-tually. It could be this year, in which case they've got the right

"Benetton? I don't know. Ithink Gerhard Berger's a very - have to say it's Villeneuve for

Check mate: Jackie Stewart is typically forthright about his drivers' chances of success Photograph: Robert Hallam

grands prix, never won a

championship, hasn't won

enough grands prix in a season to be seriously in contention for a championship.
"Jean Alesi has won only one grand prix. That's not appropriate for the skill God gave him, but somehow or other it hasn't been successfully channelled so far. It's a question of whether that can be turned around. He says he's going to

but I don't know. "On balance, therefore, I

moderate his mental attitude,

### "In common with many," he kind of dominance Williams upon their reliability. They've analytical driver, a very the championship." Cloth cap makes way for bowler hat

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

VESTOR. Second-round replay: Worksop v Bym Sparlane.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Dornesser v Menthy Tydif (7.45): Gressy Roses v Burton Albon. Hastings v King's Lynn; Pausearon v Cheinstord. Mildland Drivision: Handeson v Grown Evestiam; Raong Cub Warwock v Raunds: Snepshed Dynamo v Moor Green 17.45): Emboration: Cheincester v Fisher Anthero (7.45): Enth & Bahvedre v Newport low (7.45): Withey v Yate (7.45): Dr Marten Cup Semi-Brail first leg: Sudbury Town v Wymouth.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Black-pool Rovers v Carbence Creditation v Darwer. Mossley v Pentro. Floodist Trophy third-round replay: Newcastle Town v Krisgove. NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Pickering v North Famby; Thackley v Sheffield, President's Cup final first leg: Belper v Huctorali. The game did its best to shake off what remains of its cloth cap image by donning the bowler hat of the City establishment at the launch of the second year of Super League. The launch at the Sports

Cafe in London featured an JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Clacton v Felostowe (7.45); Sudbury Wander-ers v Holiclead (7.45); Tiptree v Harwich & Parke-ston (7.45). announcement that Sheffield Eagles are to become the first SUM 17, 401.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Desborough v Boston Town.

SCREWIND DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Divisions
Paulton v Budeford club to be floated on the stock in South Wales. market and that the name Saatchi - more often associated with Conservative Party election Payson WESSEX LEAGUE First Division: Be-merron Heath Harlequins v Brockenhurs. League Cup quarter-final second leg: Ryde (2) v Eastleigh (2). campaigns - will in future be linked with the promotion of the (2) v Eastleigh (2).

WDISTONEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division:
Chatham v Londhan (7.45); Deal v Herne Bar.
Faversham v Condhan (7.45); Folkestone v
Stade Green (7.45); Ramsgate v Cray (7.45);
Whitshable v Hythe.

The Eagles are to take wing upon the Alternative Investments Market, the Stock Exchange's new public market for small, young and growing companies. The man behind the plan is

the electronics entrepreneur Paul Thompson, who performed a similar operation on behalf of West Bromwich Albion last year and also put himself forward as the potential backer of a Super League club

This flotation will enable the Eagles to strengthen themselves across the board, not just the playing side but the club as a whole," Terry Sharman, the Sheffield chairman, said.

"It's an opportunity for sup-porters to buy shares, but we ex-pect the majority of interest will make that marketing possible. come from business buyers. "We have a good financial

story to tell and I think that investors will be interested." Meanwhile Super League has appointed M & C Saatchi as advisers to its marketing arm, Rugby League Europe. Colin Myler, the chief exec-

utive of RLE, said: "We have the best sport in the world and now we have the best advertising agency to help to market it.
"We still get criticism and sniping about flat caps and meat pies. We still need to market our game more aggressively." As the Rugby League and the

quality of the product is what will make that marketing possible. The launch yesterday also addressed itself to the question of quantity, inserting an extra round

into the end of season play-offs for the benefit of the bottom four clubs in Super League. Instead of the previous top-eight play-off, the bottom eight will now play off for the right to meet the top four in the quarter-finals. "It is going to make it a very

long season, but we firmly believe it is going to be a thrilling one." Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby League's chief executive, said.
"This time last year we were still embroiled in all sorts of ar-

Super League. Now everyone just wants to get on with it." The betting for the new sea son, which starts a week on Friday, shows St Helens as the 6-5 favourites to retain the Super League championship.

Deposed Wigan, who are due to make an announcement about their ground tomorrow, are second favourites at 7-4, with Castleford and the preflotation Sheffield Eagles rank outsiders at 200-1.

Those two unfancied clubs could do business later this week, with the Eagles tipped to sign Castleford's Great Britain tour half-back, Tony Smith, who is on the transfer list at guments about the coming of £150,000.

**Henman nominated** 

# Devils' early steps to play-offs

ice hockey

Cardiff Devils have made a successful start in their quest to follow up their Superleague success with victory in the end-of-season Championship. Paul Heavey's team followed a 5-2 Group A win at Newcastle with a 6-2 defeat of Ayr Scottish Eagles.

With two of the four teams qualifying for the semi-finals in Manchester later this month, Cardiff already look a fine bet

they were boosted by two goals in the first six minutes by Doug McCarthy and Ian Cooper. Although Jamie Steer responded, Vezio Sacratini restored the two-goal cushion on the powerin the second session.

Three goals in less than three minutes from Marty Yewchuck and Steve Moria (2) stretched the lead to 6-1, before Steer bagged a late consolation. In Group B, Nottingham Pamhers also made a four-point

in their 5-1 win at Basingstoke Bison and followed that up with a 5-3 defeat of Bracknell Bees. In the Northern Premier League play-offs, Blackburn Hawks look like making the Championship round after holding Murrayfield Royals to a 4-4

draw while Castlereagh Knights defeated Dumfries Vikings 6-5 with Vasily Vasilenko scoring five of their goals. In the Premier League Peter-borough Pirates ended a 35game losing streak with a 6-2 start. They were rarely stretched

Tim Henman is among three nominations for the Most Improved Player of the Year Award for 1996 to be decided at the annual ATP Awards Ceremony at Miami Beach on 19 March

The British No 1 has been se ected along with Spain's Felix Mantilla and the American Alex O'Brien, with fellow ATP players determining the out-

Pete Sampras, the world No 1, will receive the ATP Player of the Year Award and Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge are the ATP Dou-bles Team of the Year. There are a further nine awards to be announced, seven of which are decided by the players.

Britain's Under-16 team, headed by Simon Dickson of Stockport, were runners-up in the European Winter Cup in Saarbrücken, Germany, losing was the only winner in the final.

where rugby is concerned.

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# Richmond swoop for **Pumas'** flanker

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWEIT

> Two more high-profile international captures, two fewer Courage League places for promising English youngsters. London has resembled a rugby refugee camp since Saracens and Harlequins started pulling in players from all points of the compass last spring, and yes-terday another pair of capital clubs revealed their latest forays mto the market place.

Rolando Martin, the hugely impressive Argentinian flanker. will join Richmond in the summer while Kenny Logan, the Scottish wing who farms 400 acres in Stirling, is close to agreeing a two-year deal with Wasps.

Both clubs will be significantly strengthened by their signings and as current leaders of their respective divisions, they can hardly be blamed for striking while the iron is hot. In the long run, however, English rugby's open door policy will inevitably leave some of the best homegrown talent outside on the

Martin, a 28-year-old openside specialist from the San Isidro club in Buenos Aires, has been a Richmond target for captains the Londoners, faced the experienced Puma in a World Cup pool match in 1995 and pronounced him one of the best players he had eyer confronted, and when Martin again impressed for Argentina at Twickenham last December,

his stock rose even higher. His actival at the Athletic Ground on a £50,000 salary will give the Second Division side, who already field Clarke and Scott Quinnell in their back row, a loose unit of something approaching world class.

Logan, meanwhile, could make his Wasps debut against Gloucester this weekend if he puts pen to paper for a reported £150,000 over 30 months. "I've been with Stirling County since I started playing minirugby and it will be a wrench to leave," he said yesterday. "But you never get anywhere without testing yourself to the limit. This opportunity is too good to

His decision will leave Saracens, north London neighbours of Wasps, feeling a touch deflated; they were courting Logan during the run-up to the Scotland-Wales match in January and at one point were confident of getting their man.

Having picked up more than their fair share of headlines by signing Michael Lynagh, Philippe Sella and François Pienaar, Sarries are now in danger of being overshadowed by their nearest and dearest, who have also made a pitch for Abdel Benazzi, the French

Meanwhile, Welsh preparations for the Five Nations finale with England in Cardiff on Saturday week suffered yet more disruption yesterday when Mark Rowley, the aggressive lock forward from Pontypridd, wrote off his own chances of playing. Rowley broke his left wrist in Sunday's club match with Swansea.

With Arwel Thomas, David Young, Ieuan Evans, Christian Loader and the reserve prop. Lyndon Mustoe, all carrying injuries, the Welsh selectors were considering delaying the naming of their side until after this weekend's round of league fixtures, but the coach, Kevin Bowning, will now name a squad on Thursday.

Thomas, something of a star at stand-off for the Welsh during the international campaign, has his knee in a brace and is walking with the aid of crutches. An assessment of his 2-1 to Italy in the final. Dickson | chances will be made early next

مكذا من الأصل

ige conf

The second secon

Dacked

# United can count on Keane

### Football

as he prepares his Manchester United side for tomorrow's European Cup quarter-final with his services just over two years Porto at Old Trafford.

The United manager expects his key midfield player Roy Keane to shake off the ankle injury that forced him to miss Sat orday's 3-1 home win over Coventry, and that means only the long-term casualties, Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt, will be ruled out of the club's biggest night for 28 years.

Ferguson knows that he must find the right blend to see off the Portuguese standard-bearers if the Premiership leaders are to take the right result into the return in Portugal two weeks later.

: ... :-<u>-</u>

Ole Cormar Solskjaer, their top scorer with 13 goals, was when David May made his first start for seven weeks after an operation on a hernia problem, while Eric Cantona returned after a two-match suspension.

Karel Poborsky marked a rare starting appearance with a goal, while Jordi Cruyff also came in to produce an effective midfield display that further strengthens Ferguson's hand. Brian McClair, Ronny John-

sen and Phil Neville, the latter\_ since 21 December after a bout of claudular fever, were all given second-half run-outs from the substitutes' bench.

Keane, the talismanic Irishman who is the heartbeat of United's midfield, will definitely return if he proves his fitness and Ferguson believes he will. "Roy should make it," Ferguson said. "I'm hoping that he will be OK and I think he

"He is a very important play er for us and although he couldn't play against Coventry. he should be there against

However, Solskjaer faces an anxious wait to see if his man-Alex Perguson must find a cure strikeforce, with the rejuvenat-for a headache he will welcome ed Andy Cole at last beginning to show the form that prompted United to splash out £7m for

> Ole was rested with Wednesday's game in mind be-cause we feel he does better. when he's fresh," Ferguson

"He's still got to get that first full season under his belt and then get a pre-season and he'll be much better for that. That's why I have to think about what's best for him and make sure that I don't over-use mm. He's not had a break from football for about two years and hasn't yet had a full pre-season with us." He added: "With players like

Karel Poborsky and Jordi Cruyff also having an impact now, they will give us a real rested against Coventry on a day strength in numbers for the important part of the run-in." It is all looking good for

Ferguson, who is desperate to emulate the Old Trafford legend Sir Matt Busby by landing the Champions' Cup. United's last suiff of ultimate continental glory came in 1969 when, as the defending European champions, they were knocked out at the semi-final stage by Real Madrid.

They have limped rather making his first appearance than surged through the Champions League stages, but, as Ferguson observed: "The good thing from our point of view is that our players seem to get better at this time of the year and have shown over the past few seasons that they come good during March and April. "It will be a big test against Porto, make no mistake about that, but the players should be looking forward to the

> They have got to be really positive about it and try to enjoy it. It will be a big night, but I think they are capable of doing really well."



# Faldo finds form as Masters beckons

Lehman, Colin Montgomerie, Mark O'Meara and Els, and he

is ready to fight the challenge

expected from the 21-year-old

Woods has already won four

Nick Faldo's sixth American tour victory at the weekend has led to him being made favourite for next month's US Masters. Faldo, the defending champion, is now quoted as 10-1 for Angusta by the bookmakers William Hill, with Tiger Woods, Greg Norman, Tom Lebman and Ernie Els all at 12-1.

A three-stroke winner of the Nissan Open in Los Angeles. Faldo has his game exactly where he wants it with five weeks to go to the first major of the season, the one he has won three times in the past eight

"They used to write I'm mechanical and boring. I'm glad to get back to that again," said Pal-, the specific responsibility for endo, who has now lifted three US couraging and assisting young ing programme.

Tour titles since quitting the European circuit at the end of 1994. His career total of six victories in the United States is the same as Seve Ballesteros, but the struggling Spaniard has not won there since 1988 and has now fallen outside the world's

top 100. Faldo remains sixth in the rankings after his latest tri-

Ian Peacock, the Golf Founda- people to take up golf showed tion chairman, will tell members at its annual meeting today that there are insufficient resources available to fund its existing pro-

gramme, let alone expand. The only national body with couraging and assisting young ing programme.

times in six months as a professional and Faldo has said: Tiger is doing everything that is being expected of him. I

s after his latest tri-behind Norman, body's minds and us oldies

Golf Foundation loses £60,000

an operating deficit of £60,000 last year, compared to a surplus of £17,000 in 1995. The Foundation Council supported the funding of the deficit from resources rather than Foundation has to play," Peacock said.

Nobody has ever achieved

"The under-utilisation of many of the new golf facilities. the increasing age of the average British golfer, and the fierce competition from other sports at grass roots level emphasise the vital role the Golf

have got to get ourselves in

do this weekend, finishing nine

strokes behind on three under

par. The pair are both quoted

at 1,000-1 to complete the grand

slam of all four majors - the

Masters, US Open, Open and

US PGA - this season.

Woods was unable to stop Fal-

Masters and three Opens to his name, has always maintained it is his "ultimate dream".

He moves from California to Florida this week for the Doral Ryder Open, the event he won two years ago by a shot from Norman and Peter Jacob-

Montgomerie flies there, too. after finishing joint sixth in the Desert Classic and Norman is looking forward to the tournament as well after losing a playoff in Dubai to his fellow Australian, Richard Green.

lan Woosnam was also involved in that play-off, but the Welshman, who dumped a pitch into the lake at the last and closed with a bogey six when a par five would have made him champion, has a week off before leaving for the United States and the Masters countdown.

## Lottery to back bids for events

### Sports politics

The Football Association's attempt to stage the 2006 World Cup finals received a boost yesterday when the English Sports Council announced that proceeds from the National Lattery could be used to bid for

major sporting events.
The Lottery Sports Fund will contribute £3m annually to a world-class events programme that hopes to attract more than 20 championships to Britain be-

The FA is facing a bill of between £8m and £9m to fund their bid, but could still receive 35 per cent of that cost from the ESC according to Alec McGivan, the director of the FA's 2006 team.

"This is a great opportunity to get some additional funding to our bid. We always hoped for Sports Council help and we certainly welcome the announce-ment," he said. "We have already had one meeting with the Sports Council and we must have their full support. I have no doubt they will want to contribute." The FA would have to refund any grant from profits made at the World Cup. The English Sports Council

is expecting to receive applications from national governing bodies in the next formight, but will judge them strictly according to their profitability.

The programme, along with our new facilities such as the National Stadium, is part of an overall plan for British sport, Derek Casey, the ESC chief executive. said. "We no longer have to rely on limited government grants. but are now able to attract showpiece events to all parts of the country by ourselves.

In recent years, Britain has attracted a range of world championships in minority sports. from cycling to table tennis, but most have been plagued by a lack of sponsorship and TV covcrage. The new programme aims to rectify this, but will not be extended to events already assigned to the UK, including the 1999 cricket World Cup and 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

Today's news that National Lottery funds will be used to hid for and stage major international the minister with responsibility for sport, lain Sproat. "The announcement that at least £3m each year will be available to attract major international events to the UK could mean that over Fanstone, Steve Havles, Jason | 20 events might be on their way to Britain over the next three years," he said.

# **Couch strikes blow for women**

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**NICK HALLING** reports from New Orleans

Jane Couch not only successfully defended her women's International Boxing Federation welterweight title here on Sunday night, she also captured the imagination of a sceptical American audience with an impressive combination of ring craft and flair in stopping the brave but limited American Andrea DeSong in the seventh of their

scheduled 10-round affair. However, the 28-year-old fisherman's daughter from Fleetwood is no longer the United Kingdom's sole female world champion, having been joined by Cheryl Robertson of West Bromwich, who out-pointed Suzanne Riccio-Major to claim the bantamweight title.

The two English women return home today with an even more formidable fight on their hands: they plan to challenge the British Boxing Board of Control to let them participate in a male promotion, a development the

doubting the technical skills on display. Under fire from the opening bell, Couch kept her cool to pick the Ohio woman apart with well-placed

progressed from the strong but crude brawler who won her title last May into a competent professional boxer. DeSong simply had no answer, and after taking two standing eight counts in the seventh, subsided gratefully into the arms of the referee.

Board has firmly resisted to date. There was certainly no

having been out-pointed by the head and body shots.
Under the guidance of her German Regina Halmich for trainer, the Bristol farmer Tex Woodward, the Lancastrian has

Equally impressive was the performance of Robertson, a diminutive, soft-spoken personnel officer who came from behind to take a unanimous verdict, A former kick-boxer, Robertson landed a withering right hand in the sixth to send Riccio-Major crashing to the canvas. Although she beat the count, Robertson dominated the remainder of the affair. It was the Midlander's second attempt at the world title,

the flyweight crown last year. A third European success, for Ireland's Deirdre Gogarty, who claimed the super-featherweight belt from Bonnie Canino, demonstrated how far women boxers have advanced technically. Canino was all rugged hostility, but the Dubliner simply out-boxed her to take a unanimous decision.

# **Graham enters fight** with pact to retire

back fight against Craig Joseph at the Elephant And Castle Leisure Centre tonight. It has been struck not with his new promoter, Frank Maloney, but with his doctor.

"I've got a pact that if I get beat up I am quitting," the 37-year-old said. "If the fight is wickedly hard and I get bruised up I'm getting and up. I'm getting out even if I win. I don't need it."

Graham's return bas won nothing like unanimously approval in the British fight game even though the Boxing Board of Control's medical men cleared him to return last November for an unimpressive points victory over America's Terry Ford. Even Maloney is not convinced that Graham is doing the

Herol Graham has agreed a right thing and the deleat of the deal before his second comeat the weekend has done nothing to foster positive thoughts in Maloney's mind.

"It's all in Herol's hands," he said. "I'm not sure that a great champion and ambassador like Herol was should really go down to this level." "I don't really want to see him

struggle against kids who couldn't have licked his shoes in his heyday but Herol just kept pestering me. He must have phoned me 25 times in one week to put him on my show." Graham was undoubtedly different class in his day, with

reflexes which were quite astonishing. They cannot be as sharp now but the southpaw should still have too much left for Joseph.

## **Smith selects crew** end of May, the crew - Gordon Maguire, Neal McDonald, Stu

### Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

A torrid 15 months of hard work was promised by Lawrie Smith yesterday for the crew of Silk Cut, the identities of whom were announced in Southampton yesterday for the Whitbread Race, which starts on 21 September this year.

"Selecting the crew has been a tough process," Smith said, but I are confident we now have a team capable of matching the best that the other crews can throw at us. But if the guys think they have worked hard to get on board Silk Cut, it is nothing compared to the training they are now going to do in the lead up to the race." With the new boat being built in Sydney and due to be air freighted to Britain at the

Bannatyne, Adrian Stead, Jez Carrington, Tim Powell, Craig Nutter and Jan Dekker - will continue training at Vilamoura. Portugal. Russell Pickthall is coordinating the sail programme and a 12th crew may be added for some legs. In Auckland, Grant Dalton has launched both his Whit-

bread 60s for the Merit Cup in a remarkably short 17 weeks. They will be tuned and developed in New Zealand waters before being shipped to Europe. Mike Golding's Group 4 leads the fourth leg of the BT Challenge, followed by Simon Walker (Toshiba) and Boris Webber

(Courtaulds), as the 14 yachts leave behind a storm on the first night and head across the Bass Strait under spinnaker.

### TODAY'S NUMBER

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20

16

The number of players who are on one yellow card for to-morrow night's European Cup quarter-final first leg between Manchester United and Porto. United have six players hoping to avoid a second booking, including Eric Cantona, Gary Neville and Roy Keane.

# **Cambridge confident**

Mike Meredith, the Cambridge cartain, had few fears yesterday when he threw down the challenge to Oxford's captain, the New Zealander, Matt Barr, for next Tuesday's Varsity Match at Milton Keynes National Sta-

dium, writes Bill Colwill. Meredith, three times an Oxford Blue, feels he knows a lot about the traditional event and the Oxford set-up and was able to announce a full strength starting line-up. He hopes to have the edge and break Ox-ford's stranglehold of the last six years on the Varsity Bowl. Oxford have had their injury

problems and the recent inclusion in their League side of German Under-21 international, Henning Tewes, who is not eligible for Tuesday's game, to stave off relegation threats, will not have helped their preparations.

have helped their preparations.

Oxford University: L Corts (S. Culteriars), D Morant (Magualen); Territoles (Help), J MacConside (Esteri, M Berr (New, capt), B Reamann (St Catheriel), R lythe (Incoh), R Wilsond (Besennes), S Switter (Help), T Matthews (St Edmund Hell), D Edwards (St Edmund Hell), T Johnson (Jess), J Cubess (Microson), T College (Queen's).

CAMBRIDGE University: P Victorials: Grand (Sus), S Cope (Singer Sus), J Royles (Robrison), J Perr (Sidney Sussed); O Brew (Enghanue), M Meredith (Clare, capt), 1 Besenuel (Enghanue), M Meredith (Clare, capt), 1 Besenuel (Franchic), S Playfair (Robinson), Sabethuster (T Billian), K J Mayer (St Johnson), Substitutes to Risman (Enghanuel), M Meredith (Salan), M Loose (St Cutherne S), H Ward (Emmanuel), D Heathcote (Christ's).

# Baddeley backed by BA

The England manager, Steve Baddeley, vesterday received the backing of the Badminton Association in his dispute with

Jounne Muggeridge. Baddeley is in conflict with the 27-year-old professional over her refusal to comply with the training regime set up for England's élite squad.

Mungeridge, Britain's top-runked singles player in the world, ended a meeting to sort out the situation by tipping a soft drink over Baddeley's head. Support for Baddeley's stance came from Geoffrey selection for England."

Snowdon, the association's chief executive. "It is not our wish to be vindictive," he said. "However it is important that players

honour their agreements and do

everything they can to demon-

strate their commitment to English badminton." "Until such time as Muggeridge can clearly demonstrate her commitment and fitness, she will not be included in mem-

bership of the elite squad.

This means she will not be able to participate in training with the squad, will not be funded to any tournaments and she will not be considered for

England trevel to Slovekie to play the hosts, Switzerland and Lucembourg, in their group of the European Champi-

their group of the European Championstrp qualifying round leading to the 1999 finals. The games are from 23-25 May and the top two qualify for the senti-fluid round.

1894: Indiana 101 LA Laisers 85; Utah 93 Vancouser 86; Mann 79 San Ariston 72 Charlotte 108 Mannason 96; Seattle 109 Orando 101: Depot 82 Atlanta 75; New York 97 Charletted 82; Propris 109 Regis 108 for) James 108 LA Cappers 107 (oQ; Portland 112 Philadelphia 96.

7LIP LEAGUE TROPHY First (NEC., Birsning-hamic London Yowers 67 Chester Jess 59. BUDWEISER LEAGUE (Sunday's late result): Newcastie 94 Crystel Palace 79.

Bowlis

Withten's ALL England Indoor Championships (Forid) Pales championship semisensis; J Smith and A Hartson (Foliastone) be
Redman and M Stopper (King George Field)
21-20; S Mart and J Thomas Beotinghem) be
Redrod and K Stoutt (Egham) 17-15 fether
sers end; Two-wood risplan smal-limites concortia (N Carroll) be Limoch (P Prash) 22-7; Prasers, Engrann (A Queen) by York (P Haplar) 18-17
(after earse end; Champion of Champions Rest
round; J Wisson (Carroll) by Y Marmel (Boshog)
21-16; M Montaion (Britishin) 19: J Marmel (Beiton) (K D Wisson (Boston) 21-11; J Hartled
(Mandgany 16 G Hook (Bestbar) 21-15; P Marphy (Stanier) by M Emmant (Lastedde) 21-11;
K Smitt (Egistem) to M Formant (Lastedde) 21-11;
K Smitt (Egistem) to M Formant (Lastedde) 21-14;
K Sm Bowls

Cricket

Sissex have sought legal advice following the attempt by their former pace bowler Tony Pigott to force the club's committee to resign en bide. Pigott has collected the 50 signatures necessary from voting members, required by club rules, to bring about an extraordinary general meeting at Hove. Pigott has taken the step to cust the committee following an exocus of players from the country, including the former captain Alan Wells. Findson's Test and one-day internstorial. cluding the former captain Alan Wells. England's Test and one-day international series against Australia this summer have caused a ticken rush for the matches at Lord's. The first four days of the sec-onal Combill Test from 19 to 22 June are already sold out as is the third and final Texaco match on Sunday, 25 May following a beliet for beliets on 1 March. The demand has been so great that the Lord's Test is now the most over-sub-scribed in the history of the ground.

### SPORTING DIGEST

Football Ray Harford has made a stunning £800,000 offer to take Preston's flying left-winger Kevin Kilbane to West Bromwich Albion.

Manchester United's Northern Ireland international defender, Pat McGlbbon, has joined Third Division promotioners Wigan Athletic on a month's

loan. Bradford City have signed the Leeds re-serve goalkeeper Paul Evens, 23, on a month's loan. The South African will make his debut in today's match at ipswich.

Motherwell are ready to let their former captain Chris McCart leave Fir Park on a free transfer. The 29-year-old defender is no longer part of the manager Alex McLeish's team plans.

Former England international Paul Parker is believed to be considering a move to Hong Kong's First Division club Golden. Goroen.

Len Millard, captain of West Bromwich Atbior's 1954 FA Cup-winning side, has died at the age of 78. He played for Albion from 1937 until 1958 and appeared in more than 600 games for the Midlands club, including 436 in the

Derby County have sealed the first major sponsorship for their new ground, which opens in August. Toyota, who al-ready sponsor the club, have signed a five-year deal to have their name on the mein stand at the new stadium.

A undere TROPHY Fourth-round draw Morecambe or Departure A Rechange visiton uniad Herbridge Sartis v Wolding Bishop Audignal

4 Ghusastin Cary Saverage Borough v Chaye

By or St Learner Stancardi. (Tes to be played
on Saturdey, 22 Merch.)

on Seturday, 22 Mench).
UK LIYANG WARRIN'S FA CUP Semi-kinol draw: Benf-kinanser Town or Werthicky villesson Town or Assensi; Mitheal Lonesses v Crayton. (Ties to be played on 30 Medicine he neutral vanues yet to be confirmed).

BELL'S SCOTTISM LEAGUE RE-ARRANGED MATCHES: Premier Obligion: Renges v Dunder United (12 Merch). Third Division: Montrose v Ross County (12 Merch).

WORLD RANKONGS: 1 G Norman (Aus)
11.05pts ane; 2 Tubrines (US) 9.52; 3 C Montgeneral (Soi) 9.05; 4 M Orders (US) 9.04;
6 E Et 654; 8.67; 6 M Frado 8.55; 7 F Coupts 8/55 7.84; 8 M Caslo (Lapan) 7.56; 9 N
Pros (Zim 7.20; 10 D Love III (US) 7.68; 9 N
or Britishu 39 S Tomance 3.66; 58 L Westwood
2.52; 88 A Cottant 1.96; 93 P Hermigen 1.81;
96 P McGinley 1.78; 100 P Broadhurst 1.74.

EUROPEAM RYDER CUP STANDINGS (1pt per £1 won, Leading 10 quellity automatically at and of BBMV International on 31 August, Save Ballesteros, the captain, then selects two wild carding 80 per 10 units 1, 1910 129, 353, 37 Bpcm (10 per 12 80, 67; 4 C Rocos (tr. 1956, 952; 8 D Clarke 187, 609; 8 I Whosmath 173, 852; 7 1 Van de Veide (fr. 1960, 776; 8 P-U Johansson (Swe) 152, 804; 9 S Torrarce 147, 948; 10 P Broodinara 124, 877; 11 P Harrington 110, 203; 12 1 Westwood 104,016; 13 P Minchell 10, 1499; 1 M Jamonet (Spi 86,527; 15 R Chapman) 32,502; 16 A Coltar 81,521; 17 D Gallot 84, 469; 12 B Larger (Gar 82,804; 19 M Cawes ELOPK; 20 M Farry (Fr. 1984; 21 P McGarley 76,885; 22 S Ballesteros (Sp) 73, 731.

US RYDER CUP TEAM STANDINGS (Leading 10 on list as of most Pel Chapmonniale quality automatically; 1 T Lehren 746,290(ts; 2 M O'Mear 723,750; 3 S Jones 579,280; 4 D Lone III 525,000; 5 M Brooks 519,750; 6 P Maries Sto. 200; 1 T Cod. 341,000; 14 P Scarkovski 340,000; 35 J Magyan 355,550; 13 J Cod. 341,000; 14 P Scarkovski 340,000; 35 J Magyan 320,000; 15 M Calcaveoches 305,000; 18 C Stanter 284,290; 20 J Leonard 283,500.

Hockey

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NR.: Präsdebna 5 Hartoro 2: NY Islanders 2
Hashington 0: Detroi 1 Anahorn 1 Ioti; Chicago 4 Phoelst 0.

SUPPELEAGUE Play-offs: Group A (Sebarday):
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2 Group B (Saturday): Sentified 3 Brackinel 2;
Besugside 1 Notingtom 5. (Sunday): Notingtom 5 Brackinel 3.

PREMIER LENGIE; Standay): Notingtom 5 Brackinel 2.

SCHOOL 8 Guildon's Sunday 6 Sention
8: Peterborough 6 Tellori 2: Sough 6 Sention
8: Peterborough 6 Tellori 2: Sough 6 Sention
1: NOTINERN PREMIER LENGIE (Saturday):
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Ournings 5, Munayfield 4 Blackburn 4.

HALF-TRME: Score draws (4): 17, 23, 40, 44, No-score draws (15): 1, 4, 6, 10, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 30, 32, 43, 45, 46, 49, No

ice hockey

maximum.
Fill - Fills: Score draws (10): 15, 24, 25, 31, 34, 37, 40, 43, 45, 47, No-score draws (4): 19, 20, 28, 30, fiving wins (15): 3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 21, 26, 35, 36, 38, 46, Claims by telephone are insted for

Hally fing:

SAFARI RALLY (Kenya) Final positions: 1 C.

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(GB) Mitsubsite 11:36/04; 3 I Duncom (her)

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(Sp) Ford 12; 3 P Lean (N; Suboru 10: 4 K Eric
son (Swe) Suboru 10: 5 T Makinen (Fri) Mitsuboru 13:40 K Mandidechares' champloniship: 1

Suboru 33pts; 2 Ford 19; 3 Mitsuboru 16.

Rugby Leagne AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Cronulle Syaris. 26 Camberra Raiders 4.

Rugby Union

Nigel Walker, the Cardiff wing, is out of
the Weish squad for the World Cup Sevens in Hong Kong later this month. He
has an ankle injury and is replaced by
the Bridgend wing Dahydd James.
SERAT BRITAIN SQUAD flor XV Miscoslash
Gentes, famel, starting on 1.5 aby against South
Africas; D Wolff (Ou Merchann Taylors and Midclasse, user-capt), P Sisson (Lond) (Louds I) West
(Output Univ., A Dias (Bencoh), C Genesin (Middifficulture, E Blasse (Miff), E Dicklesson (MidMidfieldure, E Blasse (Miff), E Dicklesson (Midburg (Did Metholars). In Prosper (Od Midheler),
R Gorden (Roundingers), and Lambridge Univ., R Yang
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L Gould (Od Hobertushers), A Rugbin (Pristo Univ.)

and England Students), E Lasman (OAT), J Sillers (Marchester Umy and Sirler, N Hookley (Orond Link and Moseley), M Jacoba (OAT), D Zaltzman Sargers and England Under-21, B Simmons (OC Hebertashers), J Saltzmane (Bonson Under, B Sillers Under, B Sillers Under, P Noble (Bingmon and Sussex).

EUROPEAN OPEN (Valletta, Malta) Final: 1 Hig gre (Sco) of 1 Parron (Eng) 9-5.

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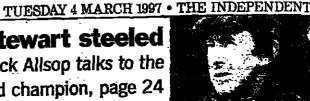
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# Dalglish offers no clues to French test

Football

SIMON TURNBULL

Kenny Dalglish, true to form. was giving nothing away yesterday. A similar performance by his players tonight, though. is no longer the chief concern of the man for whom masterminding victory in a European tie remains conspicuously absent from his managerial CV.

Dalglish's experience of the management game in Europe

drew 2-2 in Sweden and lost 1-0 James' Park tonight for the first leg of their Ucfa Cup quarter-final would have hardly offered an easy chance of opening a successful continental account at the best of times for the Scot whose delightful. clipped finish won the European Cup for Liverpool at the end of his first season in England. These are testing times for

Dalglish on Tyneside. He does not even have the relative luxury of taking Newcastle into their French test with

keeping it tight at the back on home ground as his big worry. Half the £60m of playing assets With Alan Shearer convalescing, Les Ferdinand almost certainly hamstrung and Faustino Asprilla suspended, Dalglish will more likely than not be accompanied on the home bench by both of his prolific domestic predators as well as the loose cannon of a Colombian who has shot the Magpies within two

rounds of a European final. That, assuming Ferdinand fails to recover (Dalglish refused to rule him out definitely in front of the French press corps yesterday), would represent an

the Newcastle manager inherited two months ago. And. while he doubtless feared what damage Monaco's notoriously sharp front runners might do as he watched Graeme Souness' modest Saints go marching into the home box at will on Saturday. Dalglish must have lamented more than anything else Kevin Keegan's hasty sending of

Darren Huckerby to Coventry. A couple of finishes like the one Newcastle's £1m giveaway produced at Old Trafford on Saturday and L'Equipe's front page

might have been adomed with the legend "Huckerby - fin" on Wednesday morning. How a forward line that was led in the last 15 minutes against Southampton by the England Under-21 rightback of two years ago might ef-fectively end Monaco's challenge is more difficult to imagine.

Steve Watson was an emergency centre-forward when Newcastle's Uefa Cup campaign ground to a blunt halt in Bilbao two seasons ago, but a more likely option for Dalglish tonight would be to deploy David Ginola as a central attacker. Ginola sparkled in such

a role, alongside George Weah, in the Paris Saint-Germain team who reached the last four of the European Cup in 1995 and has been longing for a re-turn to more middling ground.

Whether he will get his

chance tonight remains to be seen. The thoughts of King Kenny remained a closed book at his St James' court yesterday. "I'm not going to give anyone my thoughts and opinions about David Ginola," he stonewalled

when asked about the sublimely gifted but more often than not deceptively flattering Frenchman who has made more

technicolour appearances in Repault commercials than in the monochrome of the New-

Ginola has not hit the back of the net since the wondrous effort he struck against Fer-encvaros on 29 October. His, boss gave him a reminder of the finisher's art with a goal in training yesterday. "I could be in the frame myself." Dalglish mused, raising the intriguing prospect of a repeat of that 1978 Wembley winner against Bruges

on his 46th birthday. In stark contrast to Dalglish, Monaco's coach, the former

French midfielder Jean Tigana, has such a wealth of attacking talent at his disposal his biggest worry is whether to play Victor Ikpeba, who has five Uefa Cup goals to his name already this & season, or the lightning quick teenage prodigy Thierry Hen-ry alongside Anderson da Sil-

va, his brilliant Brazilian. Tigana's team boast a 100 per cent record away from home thus far in their campaign. And if the French champions elect go for the Magpies' jugular tonight, Newcastle's season could be bust before they even go to Monte Carlo.

# **Old Trafford** to play host to England

MARK BURTON

There will be more than a touch of novelty about it when England play South Africa on 24 May, Not only will it be the first football match between the two nations, but also the match will be staged at Old Trafford.

The game against the African champions, being used by Glenn Hoddle as a World Cup warm-up for the trip to Poland the following week, cannot be played at Wembley because of the newly-designated national stadium's play-off commit-

"We're delighted to be play-ing South Africa and it will be a historic match," the England coach said yesterday. They are a gowing nation and are getting stronger and stronger as a tootballing power."

d to stage the 2006 Russia's football union. Dr Viacheslav Koloskov, is a member of the Uefa executive, which is Germany as the only bidder

The FA's chief executive. Graham Kelly, said he did not know that Russia had made a bid, but Koloskov denied the reports, saying yesterday that Russia had no chance of building the stadiums needed to

stage the event. Řuud Gullit will be in plaster for a month after an X-ray yesterday revealed he has a hairline tracture in an ankle. Chelsea's Dutch player-manager was injured to minutes after coming on as a substitute in the 3-2 defeat at Derby on Saturday.

Southampton have signed the striker Mickey Evans from Plymouth Argyle for £500,000 - a record sale for the Devon club and a fee which could rise. Gregan.

Spice bland food with liberal.

An agreement to change yen

application of raki (\*)

is allaying dispute (7)

11 Fellow to debase drag in

Stock container (2)

shelter by church (5)

flying type. (\*)

9 UK leader in drink to high-

29 Group sleeping place hyside

12 One point about one tool (5).

13 Unpleasant creature given

15 Very pleased to be put out?

17 Call for sauce to be about

right? It's magic! (3-6) 19 Frenchman joining women (

23 Peevish Queen rules badly,

get fresh (5) Woman about to embrace the in

suppressing Open University

SEC BUREN WAIT BY COMMISSION OF THE WAIT BY COMISSION OF THE WAIT BY COMMISSION OF THE WAIT BY C

depending on appearances. The 24-year-old is expected to go straight into the squad for tomorrow's Premiership game at home to Everton as the Suints look to build on Saturday's 1-0

Premiership match at Chelsea next month. The Birmingham official angered Leicester when his penalty decision gave Chelsea victory in last week's FA Cup fifth-round replay at Stamis not our place to make the decision for the authorities. No matter what our feelings are, we can't go around picking who is going to referee our games."

Paul Ince could spurn the advances of some of England's top clubs when he decides on where The Football Association to- to play his football next season day gave a cautious welcome to and stay in Italy. The Innews that Russia is interested in ternazionale midfielder, who scored twice in Saturday World Cup. The president of victory over Piacenza, has repeatedly been linked with a move back to the Premiership - but Ince could be about to said to have decided to support cold shoulder a return to England when he makes his decision

in two weeks' time. Aberdeen are to part company with their captain, Stewart Mckimmie, after more than 13 years with the club. The Pittodrie manager. Roy Aitken. said vesterday the 34-year-old defender s contract will not be renewed when his current deal expires in June.

Terry Venables is bringing the Australian goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac to Portsmouth for a second crack at English football. The 6ft 7in Kalac, who was a flop at Leicester, has agreed to sign for Pompey from Sydney

win at Newcastle. Leicester City will abide by

the decision to name Mike Reed as the referee for their ford Bridge, Leicester's man-ager, Martin O'Neill, said; "It

United in a £400,000 deal.
Aston Villa have had a

£600,000 bid rejected by Preston for their central defender. Sean

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

25 I wear myself out over retired

26 Making profit from catching

Second sum set is wrong -

28 That's a bit vumny with beef

1. Pathetic one surrounded by

everything of mine? (7)

mg old baby (7)

England (5)

Father's position when adopt-

One wise man in the picture

To get here one would need

One from Greina races to

to spend a homb (9)

stabilises bout 191

7 Pale type rose to represent one? (7)

most unfortunate (7)

professors (7)



# South Africa struggling to stave off defeat

DOHANNESBURG SCOREBOARD

NEIL MANTHORPE reports from the Wanderers South Africa 302 & 99-4 Australia 628-8 dec

A record-breaking 385-run partnership by Greg Blewett and Steve Waugh left Australia poised for a crushing win over South Africa at the end of the fourth day of the first Test.

Blowett finished with 214, the highest Test score made at the Wanderers, and Waugh 160 as Australia piled on the runs before declaring at 628 for 8, a first-innings lead of 326.

8 Made big effort to get two

different rivers dry (7)

about right musical to back

them up! (5.4) They'll have PC make unau-

of an age (4-3) Rare element produced by miners keeping Nigerian unit

24 Complain of losing male state

up (7) 21 Know-all's archaic manner

attracts ridicule (4.3)
23 Leave carrying length of

warm covering (5)

14 Urging to be enthusiastic

16 Send suggestion for tying

thorised entry (7)

Shane Warne then stepped in with two wickets to leave South African hopes of saving the

game in tatters as they struggled

to 99 for 4 by the close. It left them still 227 runs behind with their last pair of specialist batsmen at the crease. Jacques Kallis unbeaten on 29 and Jonty Rhodes on three.

Gary Kirsten dragged a wide ball from Shane Warne on to his stumps when he had made eight and then Steve Waugh hit the stumps to run out the other opener. Andrew Hudson, for 31. It became 46 for 3 when Daryii Cullinan was caught behind off Warne for a duck.

Hansie Cronje and Kallis halted the slide momentarily. sharing a fourth-wicket stand of 44, but the introduction of Steve Waugh's medium pace broke the partnership. Cronje flicked at a wide leg-side ball

and was caught by wicketkeeper lan Healy for 22.

Earlier Waugh and Greg Blewett had effectively batted South Africa out of the game with their fifth-wicket partnership after Australia resumed at 479 for 4 after the pair had bat-

ted throughout the third day.

Extribe (01.1016, 1000), vel) 628 Fall (cont): 5-559 C-577.7-513 8-528. Did not but: 7 N Gilesole, G D McGrett. Bowling: Dorsid 35-7-138-2 vib1, v2); Polick 27,3-105 2 vib2; Musers 37-10-122-1 (mb1): Nois 214-54-1 ve2); Adams 52-7-163-1; Conye 16.4-5-32-1.

behind just before lunch for 160 from 366 balls in 501 minutes with 22 fours. His 12th Test century was also his seventh score

in excess of 150. Blewett's innings beat the previous best at the Wanderers. Mike Atherton's unbeaten 185

reat: 1-36 2-41 3-46 4-90.
Bouling: McGrath 10-5-17-0: Gillespia
11-4-24-0: Warne 18-9-37-2: Bever
5-0-16-0: S.R Wangh 4-1-4-1.
Unspirest: C.J Menthley (SA) and S Verlidtaraginaten (Indi).

and hit 34 boundaries.

third wicket by the English pair two years ago. When Blewett was eventually caught off the back of the bat by Paul Adams ton at Lord's in 1947. at third man he had made 214

in 519 minutes from 421 balls wicket against South Africa was 275 for the fifth wicket by The partnership was the highest against South Africa in Colin McDonald and Lindsay

of Bill Edrich and Denis Comp-The previous highest Australian partnership for any

Tests, beating the 370 for the Hassett in Adelaide in 1952-53.

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## Qualify to teach in Secondary Schools through part-time study Finn was forced to retire after an ill-timed puncture saw him

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# McRae beats demons

Colin McRae yesterday experienced perhaps the most extraordinary race of his career

with a hard-fought victory in the Safari Rally in Nairobi. McRae suffered electrical difficulties with his Subaru over the closing stages, but clutch problems for second-placed fellow Briton Richard Burns ensured McRae finished more than sev-

en minutes ahead of the field. Fortunately for the Scot, there was no repeat of Sunday's prob-lems when vandals left a pile of rocks in his path forcing him to

and left front wishbone took the main impact, but after a delay of Tommi Makinen, yesterday. The around three minutes he managed to return to the action. He still finished the second leg in the lead and held on yesterday to earn his first, and Subaru's third, success of the year.

McRae had managed just one fourth place in the previous two rounds of the championship. He had a problem with the alternator in the morning but, once that was fixed, he drove faultlessly to victory over Burns in the Mitsubishi Carisma and third-placed

Kenya's Ian Duncan in a Toyota. Burns' second place, after dri-

drive 25 miles with a flat tyre, causing his rear suspension to fail. On the rally's opening day, both the series leader Carlos Sainz, in a Ford Escort, and McRae's Subaru team-mate. Kenneth Eriksson, were forced

to retire due to mechanical problems caused by the rocky terrain. McRae now has 13 points in the drivers championship after

three rounds, with Sainz in second place with 12 and Eriksson and Italy's Piero Liatti in joint ving for most of the day without third place on 10 points. Suba clutch, was a boost for Mit- aru maintain their lead in the at full speed. The steering rack subishi, particularly as they lost manufacturers' championship.

# Rumble down at Mumbles

**Rugby Union** 

**CHRIS HEWETT** 

It sounds like a had day at San Siro or the Aztec stadium; controversial sendings-off, a mass punch-up featuring an unholy mixture of players and supporters and a decisive intervention by police wearing riot gear. But this was no outbreak of Latin soccer violence. This happened at, er. Mumbles RFC, the leaders of the

Heineken League Division Seven, no less, Mind you, it was a big old game. Mumbles were hosting second-placed Cwmllynfell in a West Wales derby, and with so

much at stake that you could cut the atmosphere with a lump hammer. When the fur began to fly during the second half, members of the South Wales constabulary might have felt more at home in São Paulo or Bogota, despite the lack of humidity down there on the Gower coast.

Four players, three of them from the visiting side, were invited by the referee. Hugh Banfield, to make an early denarture from the arena and one of them, the Cwmllynfell full-back Christian Walsh, collected his marching orders for participating in the "Mumbles Rumble" that had broken out among the 500 spectators.

Walsh later insisted that he had been attempting to stop the violence but that only happened when a posse of very serious-looking police officers arrived. Because of the nature of the call we received, we gave the incident high-profile policing," a force spokesman said.
"The trouble soon died down and we did not have to make

any arrests. Banfield, the official at the centre of the recent Welsh referees pay strike, is now compiling his match report. "I'll be mentioning what happened both on and off the field," he promised yesterday. It should make fascinating reading. Alan Watkins, page 24

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